

SUPPLEMENTARY NUMBER
TO THE TWENTY-NINTH VOLUME OF THE
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

VOL. 29. No. 201.] JULY 31, 1810. [PRICE 2s.

HALF-YEARLY RETROSPECT OF DOMESTIC LITERATURE.

HISTORY.

FIRST in this class we have to announce the close of Mr. MAURICE's labours on the "Modern History of India." The Supplement recently published, brings it "down to the year of our Lord 1788, when the imperial Mogul Dynasty, by the blinding and de-thronement of Shah Aulum, virtually became extinct." At the end of all is a closing chapter, entitled "European Settlements."

Mr. CHALMERS, in the prosecution of his plan for removing the difficulties, settling the disputes, and clearing the obscurities, of the history and antiquities of Scotland, has laid before the public the second volume of his "Caledonia." From the ancient annals of Scotland he proceeds, after some introductory intimations, to give its topographic history, in a sequence of shires; beginning with the most southern, and proceeding to the northern, in a regular consecution. "The localities of each shire are given in eight sections: the 1st. treating of its name; the 2d. of its situation and extent; the 3d. of its natural objects; the 4th. of its antiquities; the 5th. of its establishment as a shire; the 6th. of its civil history; the 7th. of its agriculture, manufactures, and trade; and the 8th. of its ecclesiastical history."

The shires at present described, are those of Roxburgh, Berwick, Haddington, Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Peebles, and Selkirk. The topographical history of the south-western, the eastern, and the northern, shires, is to follow in the subsequent volumes.

"In the investigation of truth," says Mr. Chalmers, "I have not been discouraged by any difficulty, and I have not declined any labour; I have sought new documents; and I have tried, in my narration, to be neither too general, nor too minute. I will beg leave to conclude this preface, with Carew's Prosopopeia to his Survey of Cornwall:

* I crave not courteous ayd of friends,
To blaze my praise in verse;
Nor, proud to vaunt mine authors' names,
In catalogue rehearse.

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'I of no willing wrong complaine,
Which force or stealth hath wrought;
No fruit I promise from the tree
That forth this *blooth** hath brought.

'I curry not with smoothing termes,
Ne yet rude threats I blast:
I seeke no patron for my faults;
I plead no needless haste.'

Our Retrospect allows so little space for any thing like elaborate examination, that having given a general view of what the reader is to expect from "Caledonia," we shall content ourselves with adding, that Mr. Chalmers's opportunities of information have been only equalled by his diligence.

Here also we have to notice the second volume of Mr. PLAYFAIR's "Family Antiquity; illustrative of the Origin and Progress of the Rank, Honours, and Personal Merit, of the Nobility of the United Kingdom." Containing the English Viscounts, Barons, and Peeresses in their own right.

POLITICS.

In Mr. ROSE's "Observations respecting the Public Expenditure, and the Influence of the Crown," we have much valuable information on the management of the revenue. The retrenchments of government patronage since 1782, are particularly rested on in the first part, followed by an account of the reform which Mr. Pitt made in the manner of contracting for loans and lotteries.

Mr. PETRIE's "Statement of Facts, delivered to the Right Honourable Lord Minto, Governor-general of India, on his late Arrival at Madras," will be found interesting to those who study our affairs in the East.

Mr. CAPEL LOFFT has published a pamphlet "On the Revival of the Cause of Reform;" and a shorter publication has appeared on the same subject, entitled, "Reform without Innovation."

THEOLOGY, ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS, &c.

The most important work which has of late appeared in this class, will be

* "A Cornish word, signifying the year; the spring; or rather the fruits of the year, or budding of trees."

found in the re-publication of “*The New Testament, translated from the Latin in the Year 1380, by JOHN WICLIF, D.D. to which are prefixed, Memoirs of the Life, Opinions, and Writings, of Dr. WICLIF; and An Historical Account of the Saxon and English Versions of the Scriptures, previous to the opening of the fifteenth Century,*” by the Rev. H. H. BABER.

Wiclf's Version was originally published in the year 1731, by the Rev. John Lewis, minister of Margate, in the county of Kent; in the preparation of which for the press, he was greatly assisted by the celebrated Dr. Daniel Waterland. Its value, as one of the best monuments of our early language, needs not to be enlarged on here.

In the “*Memoirs of the Life, Opinions, and Writings, of Dr. Wiclf,*” Mr. Baber has superseded the Life by Lewis. He concludes it with a more complete list of the reformer's writings than has hitherto been given to the world; mentioning, in most instances, in what repositories the unpublished pieces may be found.

“*The Historical Account of the Saxon and English Versions of the Scriptures, previous to the opening of the fifteenth Century;*” will be found, if possible, even more interesting than the Life of Wiclf. Mr. Baber mentions their first dawn in a brief description of the work of Cædmon, a writer who, in the Saxon times, had the reputation of being inspired. His paraphrastic version of several of the most remarkable passages of Sacred History, is supposed to have been written about the middle of the seventh century. After mentioning one or two lost translations of detached parts, Mr. Baber proceeds to the description of the celebrated manuscript of the Gospels called the “Durham Book,” containing a Latin text, with an interlineary Saxon version. The former written by Eadfrid, bishop of Lindisfarne, about the year 680: the latter supposed to have been added in the time of Alfred, and known to have been the work of one Aldred, a priest. He also gives a particular account of the Rushworth copy of the Gospels in the Bodleian, followed by several other manuscripts of lesser note.

After mentioning one or two metrical Psalters of the thirteenth century, and Rolle of Hampole's prose Psalter of the fourteenth, Mr. Baber proceeds to a more particular account of Wiclf's ver-

sion, the first attempt toward a complete English translation of the Scriptures. What extent of aid he received, it would now be difficult to discover; but Mr. Baber has pretty clearly proved that he did receive assistance from at least one of the strenuous asserters of his principles, Nicholas de Herford or Hereford, of Queen's-college, Oxford.

John de Trevisa's claim to an English translation of the Bible, Mr. Baber considers as an erroneous report, arising from a loose assertion of Caxton's, in the preface to his first edition of the Polychronicon.

We heartily wish Mr. Baber encouragement in the farther extension of his labours; and shall be happy to see the Old Testament of Wiclf printed in a corresponding form. The words of Fabricius, quoted in his preface, are too memorable to be omitted here:

— “mirum vero est, Anglos eam [versionem] tam diu neglexisse, quum vel lingue causa ipsis in pretio debeat.”

It may be sufficient, perhaps, to give the title only of “*An Historical and Political View of the Catholic Religion; from which Reasons are deduced that most peremptorily compel every thinking Man to combat the Emancipation of the Irish who are of the Catholic Church.*” In a series of Letters to Lord Grenville.

In this class also we shall notice “*A Letter to Sir John Nichol, on his Decision against a Clergyman, for refusing to Bury the Child of a Dissenter; with a Preface addressed to the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church.*”

Among the most important of the SERMONS which have appeared, is the course of lectures to the king's scholars at Westminster, in the years 1806, 1807, and 1808, by Dr. IRELAND, entitled, “*Paganism and Christianity compared.*” The subject, as we are informed in the preface, is chiefly historical. The event which serves as the foundation of the whole, is the capture of Rome by Alaric, in the beginning of the fifth century. Out of this arises, in the first part, a defence of the character of the church against the slanders of Paganism. The true causes of the decay of the empire are contrasted with the false; the impotence of the heathen deities, to whom the prosperity of Rome had been attributed, is exposed in the arguments employed by the ancient apologists of the faith; and the beneficial tendency of the gospel is asserted, in its connection with the condition of man in the present life. This

This part may therefore be called a vindication of the civil character of Christianity in the Roman empire, during the first four centuries. The second part is employed in discussing the opinions of the Pagans concerning the worship of a Deity, and the pursuit of happiness, as it was prescribed by the philosophical sects. "Lest it should be objected," says Dr. Ireland, "that only half my task is accomplished, and that the refutation of Paganism is not the proof of Revelation, a determination has been already taken to begin another course of lectures, which shall look to this as their principal object; describe, in a regular manner, the scheme of Revelation; and impress more fully on the young hearers, its doctrines and its duties."

These discourses are not less distinguished by depth of learning, than by the pious and impressive manner in which the truths they deliver are inculcated.

Bishop HORSLEY's "Sermons," in two volumes, octavo, form another accession of no ordinary value to the theologian. The discourses are in number twenty-nine; of which six were given to the public by the bishop himself in his lifetime. The memory of this learned prelate is too fresh in the recollection of our readers to need any observations on the richness, the originality, or the energy, of his productions. The efforts of his mind are as conspicuous in his posthumous Sermons, as in those which were immediately prepared to meet the public eye by himself.

Mr. OUTRAM's "Sermons and Extracts," are calculated to excite an interest both with the members of the church of England and those who have separated from her. The first of the former is a visitation sermon, "On the Increase of Separatists;" the second was preached on laying the foundation-stone of Downing College. The Extracts are "illustrative of the Opinions, Pretensions, and Designs, of those who have of late, either wholly or in part, deserted the Established Church, made chiefly from the Writings of Arminian and Calvinistic Methodists;" in no less than thirty-one sections.

Among the single sermons,

Mr. WALKER's, "The Sunday after the Funeral of Bishop Strachan," preached in the episcopal chapel at Dundee, is peculiarly intitled to our notice. He enters at large in it, into the various fortunes of the episcopal church of Scotland since the revolution of 1688.

Nor must we forget another sermon, published in Scotland by Dr. WILLIAM LAURENCE BROWN, "On the Character and Influence of a virtuous King," preached on the occasion of the Jubilee.

NATURAL HISTORY.

In this department of our Retrospect, we cannot speak too highly of the first portion of the tenth volume of the "Linnean Society's Transactions;" although it consists of five articles only. The first paper is on the "Characters of a new liliaceous genus called Brodiaea," by Dr. JAMES EDWARD SMITH, the president of the society. The second paper, by the president also, contains "Remarks on the Sedum Ochroleucum, or Αἰγών το μύρπος of Dioscorides; in a Letter to Alexander Mac Leay, esq." The third contains, "A Determination of three British species of Juncus with jointed leaves, by the Rev. HUGH DAVIES." The fourth, and by far the most elaborate memoir, is by Mr. BROWN, the society's librarian, "On the Proteaceæ of Jussieu;" a paper highly creditable to his talents as a botanist. The fifth and last memoir, by Dr. SMITH, is "On a remarkable Variety of Pedicularis Sylvatica."

Among the productions in this class, which are more immediately addressed to youth, two deserve to be particularly noticed: "The Wonders of Animated Nature;" and "the Young Botanist's Companion." The former consists of descriptions at large, and engraved representations of the principal animals in the royal menageries of London and Paris; translated from La Cepede, with considerable additions by the English editor. The latter, in thirteen dialogues, is designed to afford some fundamental ideas of botanical science. In forming it much assistance has been derived from "Rousseau's Letters on Botany," and the "Studies of Nature."

Dr. REEVE's "Essay on the Torpidity of Animals," though amusing, contains little of new investigation.

MEDICINE, SURGERY, &c.

In announcing the fourth edition of Dr. WILlich's "Lectures on Diet and Regimen," in our Retrospect, we conceive ourselves to be recommending one of the best treatises on the subject of health which has appeared of late years.

Mr. COOPER's "Dictionary of Practical Surgery," is in fact a system in which the various topics treated of are arranged in alphabetical order. His style is clear, and he has compiled his work with judgment, from the best authors.

Nor

Nor can we withhold our praise from the “*Anatomico-Chirurgical Views of the Nose, Mouth, Larynx, and Fauces, with appropriate Explanations and References*,” by Mr. WATT. They convey a clear and accurate idea of the shape, extent, and connexions, of the different cavities they represent; and are accompanied with an additional “*Anatomical Description of the Parts*,” by Mr. LAWRENCE.

The anniversary “*Harveian Oration*,” delivered in Latin by Dr. HEBERDEN, at the College of Physicians, October 18, 1809, has been since printed, and fully justifies the high character which was given of it at the time by his auditors. The finest passage is probably that which contains the apostrophe to his father’s memory. The whole is in a strain of pure and elegant latinity.

Under the head of

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS,
we have but two works of primary importance to notice. Mr. LAMBERT has published his “*Travels through Lower Canada, and the United States of North America, in the Years 1806, 1807, and 1808; to which are added, Biographical Notices of some of the leading Characters in the United States, and of those who have, at various Periods, borne a conspicuous Part in the Politics of that Country*. ” In three volumes octavo.

Dr. E. D. CLARKE has published his “*Travels through Russia, the Territories of the Don Cossacks, Cuban Tartary, the Crimea, &c.* ”

The latter will form an extended article in our next Supplement.

TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES.

The most valuable and the largest work we have to notice in this class, is the second volume of “*The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey, compiled by the late Rev. OWEN MANNING, S.T.B. enlarged and continued to the present Time, by WILLIAM BRAY, of Shire, esq.* ” It comprises the following parishes, though not arranged in the alphabetical form in which, for convenience sake, we shall here dispose them. Abinger, Addington, Albury, Alfold or Awfold, Ashted, Bansted, Beddington, Betchworth, Blechingley, Great Bookham, Little Bookham, Bramley, Buckland, Burstow, Carshalton, Caterham or Katterham, Chaldon, Charlewood, Cheam, Chelsham, Chingdon, Chilworth, Chipsted, Cobham, Compton, Coulsdon, Croydon, Crowhurst, Cuddington, Dunsfold, Effingham, Epsom, Esher, Farley, Gatton, Godstone, Hambledon, Hascomb, Hedley, Horley, Horne, Leigh,

Lempfield, Letherhead, Lingfield, Merton, Mickleham, Mitcham, West Molesey, Morden, Newigate, Nutfield, Ockley, Oxted, Pepperharrow, Puttenham, Sandersted, Shalford, Stoke Dabernon, Sutton, Tandridge, Tattenfield, Thursley, Titsey, Waldingham, Walton on the Hill, Walton upon Thames, Warlingham, Weybridge, Witley, Wonersh, Woodmansterne, and Wotton.

Mr. CARLISLE’s “*Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*,” is executed upon the same plan as the author’s two former volumes of “*The Topography of England*. ” Prefixed is a list of the most important topographical and historical books which he consulted; with an abstract of the Ecclesiastical Establishment of Ireland in 1807, and a glossary or explanation of some of those Irish words which most frequently occur in composition with the names of places. The account of Killaderry may serve as a specimen of the manner in which the generality of the better sort of towns are described.

“Killaderry, commonly called Philipstown, in the barony of Philipstown, King’s County, and province of Leinster: a R. and V., the rectory being valued in the king’s books at 18l. sterling, and the vicarage at 9l.; a church by no means in good repair: no glebe house, or glebe land. William Ould, D.D. the vicar, (in 1806), who has cure of souls, is resident at Philipstown, where the church stands, and performs the duties in person. Killaderry is in the diocese of Kildare, and province of Dublin. It is 38½ miles S. W. from Dublin. According to the ecclesiastical report, this parish, now called Philipstown, is the shire-town of the King’s County; and the benefice, extremely poor at present, ought, if possible, to be largely augmented. It has six post days in the week. The fairs are holden on the 28th of March, 22nd of June, and 3d of December. It was so named from King Philip, husband to Mary queen of England, who made this part of the country shire-ground in 1557. It gives title of Baron to the family of Molesworth. The castle, which is now in ruins, was built by the Belinghams.”

Nor have we less pleasure in describing the seventh, than we had in mentioning the former volumes of the “*Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet*. ” The more beautiful subjects among the fifty plates which adorn it will probably be found in the west front of Cowdry House, Sussex; in Cowling Castle, Kent; in the interior of Canon Pepon Church, Herefordshire,

fordshire; Guild-hall Chapel, and the curious Kitchen at Stanton Harcourt, in Oxfordshire. We have not often seen a work of more equal good execution than the present.

In this class also, we have to place the second volume of Mr. WOODBURN's "Ecclesiastical Topography;" containing fifty Views of Churches in the Environs of London, accompanied by appropriate Descriptions. The commendations we bestowed upon the former volume need not to be withheld from this. Of the Views we prefer those of Merton, Camberwell, Malden, and Mitcham Churches, in Surry; of Hayes, and Foot's Cray, in Kent; of Hampton, Northall, Greenford Magna, and Harrow, in Middlesex; and of Woodford, in Essex. In the index, Ridge, which is in Hertfordshire, is referred to, by mistake, as a church in Middlesex. From the descriptions we have selected the two following as specimens :

Elstree.

"The village of Elstree is situated about eleven miles from London, in the hundred of Caisho, in Hertfordshire. A few houses only near the church, are in the parish; the rest standing in the three parishes of Edgeware, Whitchurch, and Aldenham.

"Of its antiquity we know but little. The property of the place is said to have been given to St. Alban's Abbey, at its first foundation by king Offa;* and in the Domesday Survey, it is supposed to have been included in the manor of Parkbury, detailed among the possessions of the monks, to whom, from a remote period, the rectory of Elstree seems to have belonged.

"The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small neat structure; the appearance of whose exterior has given rise to the supposition that it was originally built out of the ruins of the ancient city of Sulloniacæ, about a mile distant. It consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, the latter separated from the body by octagonal pillars and pointed arches. The tombs are few, and of inconsiderable note.

"Since the dissolution of religious houses, the advowson of the rectory, which is in the deanery of St. Alban's, has been vested in the crown. In the Taxation of Pope Nicholaias, 1291, we have only a casual mention of the vill called "Hildestret;"† without any valor

* Newc. Rep. Eccl. vol. i. p. 840.

† MS. in the King's Remembr. Off. Exchq. f. 82, b.

of the living. A miscellaneous manuscript however in the Cotton library, of the fourteenth century,• relating principally to St. Alban's, sets its produce at three marks. The parliamentary commissioners, in their enquiry into the state of the ecclesiastical benefices in 1650, found the rectory of Ilstree, with two acres of glebe, was worth but forty pounds a year; that it had been sequestered from Abraham Spencer, (to whose family a fifth of the rectory had been allowed;) and that the cure was supplied by William Markelman, put in by the committee of plundered ministers.

"Newcourt, in the *Repertorium Ecclesiasticum*, supplies us with the names of a few rectors only, between 1595 and 1700. The following, of an earlier date, occur in a curious manuscript formerly belonging to St. Alban's Abbey, and not referred to by bishop Tanner, in Dr. Rawlinson's Collection at Oxford, more particularly described in the account of Ridge. The dates are those of presentation:

Joh. Wynes.

1467. Thomas Willam.

1470. Hen. Spenser.

1471. Malachy Keenyan.

1474. John Seman.

1477. Richard Bisquet *alias* Bosquet.

1483. John Jubbe.

"The rectors from 1700 to the present time, are given from the bishop of London's Registers :

1706. William Hawtayne.

1719. Richard Bainbrigg, M.A.

1740. Samuel Clarke.

1787. William Hawtayne.

"In the king's books, 1534, it stands at eight pounds. The earliest date of the Register, according to Mr. Lysons, is 1636."

Bermondsey.

"The new and fair church at Bermondsey, so particularly mentioned in the Domesday Survey, is allowed by our topographers to mean only the *conventual* church, which had then been very lately built.† Mr. Manning dates the foundation of the parish church about the beginning of the reign of Edward III. when, in 1337, a commission was issued from the bishop of Winchester for its consecration by Boniface, bishop of Corban.‡

* Claud. E. iv. f. 342.

† Domesd. vol. i. f. 30. a.

‡ Manning's Hist. Surr. vol. i. p. 208, from Reg. Winton. Orleton.

"But

"But that a church existed here at a period somewhat earlier, is evident from Pope Nicholas's Taxation, made in the year 1291, where "Eccl'ia b'e Marie Magdalen de Bermundeseie," stands at the value of eight marks; at which time it paid a pension of two marks to the convent.* The edifice was, no doubt, founded by the monks. In the reign of Henry VIII. 1519, it received the accession of a turret; and in 1610, of a south aisle: but toward the close of the seventeenth century, became so dilapidated, as to require taking down.†

The present structure of brick covered with plaster, consists of a chancel, nave, and two aisles, enlightened by a single series of arched windows. At the west end is a tower, square at the lower part, but ending in a kind of dome, crowned with a turret. The whole length of the church is seventy-six feet, and the height of the steeple eighty-seven.

The monumental inscriptions, which are neither numerous or particularly curious, are modern. That of Jeremiah Whitaker, an eminent puritan, who died rector of the parish in 1654, is perhaps the most remarkable.

The advowson of the rectory continued with the neighbouring monks till the dissolution of their monastery, in the 29th of Henry VIII. when it was granted, with the scite of the Abbey, to Sir Robert Southwell.‡ Since that period it has undergone the same alienations with the manor, and is now in the patronage of Mrs. Hamblay. In the king's books, the living stands at fifteen pounds eight shillings and eleven-pence half-penny.

The rectors since 1700, have been:

- 1724. William Taswell, D.D.
- 1727. William Browning, M.A.
- 1740. John Paget, M.A.
- 1745. Peter Pinnel, D.D.
- 1777. Thomas Hamblay, B.C.L.
- 1802. Henry Cox Mason."

In a former Supplement we detailed the plan of Messrs. DANIEL and SAMUEL LYONS's "*Magna Britannia*." We have now to report their progress in the publication of the second part of Vol. II. containing a concise topographical description of "*the County Palatine of Chester*." The following are the subjects of

the early sections:—1. Ancient Inhabitants and Government; 2. Historical Events; 3. Ancient and modern Division of Cheshire; 4. Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Division; 5. Monasteries, Colleges, and Hospitals; 6. Market towns; 7. Population; 8. Principal Land-owners; 9. Nobility of the County, and Places which have given Title to any Branch of the Peerage; 10. Noblemen's Seats; 11. Baronets extinct and existing; 12. Seats of Baronets; 13. Ancient Families extinct and existing; 14. Geographical and Geological Descriptions of the County; 15. Produce; 16. Natural History; 17. Mineral Springs; 18. Rivers; 19. Canals; 20. Roads; 21. Manufactures. Under the general head of "Antiquities," we have, 22. Roman Antiquities; 23. British and Roman Roads, and Roman Stations; 24. Ancient Church Architecture; 25. Ancient Painted Glass; 26. Rood Lofts, Screens &c.; 27. Fonts; 28. Stone Stalls and Piscine; 29. Ancient Sepulchral Monuments; 30. Monastic Remains; 31. Castles and Sites of Castles; 32. Ancient Mansion Houses; 33. Ancient Crosses; 34. Camps and Earth-works; 35. Miscellaneous Antiquities; 36. Customs. Of these the most valuable seem the thirteenth, the twenty-second, the twenty-ninth, thirty-second, and thirty-third. The section entitled "Ancient Families extinct and existing," is a most curious and elaborate memoir. The "*Parochial Topography*," which follows the preliminary section, is opened with a concise account of all that has been written on the subject of Cheshire.

The only part of Cheshire, (Messrs. Lysons observe,) of which we have any regular history, is the hundred of Buckley, written by Sir Peter Leycester, who has, with much industry, and apparent accuracy, traced the history of property and families in that district, from a very early period down to the year 1666, and in some instances a few years later: the work was published in 1673. Dr. Gower, in his Sketch of the Materials for a History of Cheshire, of which we shall make more particular mention, says that it had been asserted, that Sir Peter collected for all the hundreds: his own opinion," he tells us, "was, that he did not collect for them professedly, but that the manuscripts which had been submitted by Lady Leicester to his care, related to, and extended over, the whole county; containing a prodigious fund of very valuable information. Through the indulgence

* MS. in the King's Remembr. Office.

† Aubrey's Hist. of Surry, vol. v. p. 42, 43.

‡ See Manning's Hist. Surry, vol. i. p. 186. Lysons's Env. of Lond. vol. i. p. 549.

indulgence of Sir J. F. Leicester, we have had an opportunity of inspecting his ancestor's MSS. which are now in his possession, at Tabley; and we found them to contain ample collections for the hundred of Bucklow, written by Sir Peter Leycester, in a very neat hand, but scarcely any thing relating to other parts of the county, except a large volume of pedigrees, written also by Sir Peter himself, being chiefly copied from the collections of Mr. John Booth, of Twenlow, with some additions made by Sir Francis Leycester, Sir Peter's successor.

"The earliest printed work relating to the county palatine of Chester, is that generally known by the name of King's Vale Royal, for which the editor, Daniel King, an engraver, seems to have enjoyed a much greater portion of fame than was his due. The first part consists of a brief geographical account of Cheshire, the course of its rivers, a summary account of the several hundreds, brief descriptions of the city of Chester, the market towns, and a few of the principal villages; lists of the gentry in each hundred, and engraved coats of arms in alphabetical order; and annals of the city of Chester, all by William Smith, rouge-dragon pursuivant at arms in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The most valuable article in the second part is an Itinerary of Cheshire, divided into the several hundreds, made in the year 1622, by William Webb, M.A. who was clerk in the mayor's court at Chester, and had been under-sheriff to Sir Richard Lea in the year 1615. The second part contains also a short history of the Earls of Chester, their barons, the Bishops of Mercia and Chester, the government of the county and city, and a more copious epitome of the annals of the latter, compiled from the corporation books, by William Aldersey, twice mayor of Chester, who died in 1617. A work entitled a History of Cheshire, in two volumes 8vo. was published in 1778, being merely a copy of the Vale Royal, with extracts from Sir Peter Leycester's History of Bucklow Hundred; an anonymous History of Nantwich, written by the Rev. Mr. Partridge, which had been published separately in 1774; extracts from a brief History of Eccleston, which had been published by the Rev. Thomas Crane in 1774; the Diary of Edward Burghall, some time rector of Acton, relating chiefly to public transactions during the civil war; and extracts from Pennant's Journey from Ches-

ter to London, and other modern publications. The Life of St. Werburgh, written in verse by Henry Bradshaw, a monk of Chester, and printed by Pynson, of which only two or three copies are known to be extant, contains many historical particulars relating to the city of Chester.

"The manuscript collections for this county have been uncommonly numerous: an account of most of these is given in a Sketch of the Materials for a History of Cheshire, in a Letter addressed to Thomas Falconer, esq. and printed, first anonymously in 1771, and a second edition afterwards with his name, by Foote Gower, M.D. who meditated a history of the county upon an extensive scale. The most important are the very voluminous collections of the Randal Holmes, (of which name there were four in succession) now among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum; containing an immense mass of copies of charters, deeds, &c. taken from public records and private muniment rooms; pedigrees; letters, and various other matter collected by them, or copied from the collections of others; the collections of John Booth, esq. of Tremlow, Mr. Roger Wilbraham's collections for the town and district of Nantwich; Mr. John Warburton's collections, consisting of the descents of manors, and an account of the principal families; those of the Rev. John Stones, rector of Coddington; and those of Mr. William Vernon, of Shakerley in Lancashire, consisting of many folio volumes, comprising extracts from deeds and other authentic instruments, descents of families, and a variety of matter relating to several towns and parishes in Cheshire. The collections of Lawrence Bostock, Sampson Erdwick, Ralph Starkey, Randal Cathorall, Roger Wilcoxon, the three Chaloners, and others, most of which are now among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, are also described; and two very valuable epitomes made about a century ago from the several voluminous collections relating to this county; the one containing the descent of the principal landed property, compiled by Dr. Williamson, a physician, under the title of "*Villare Cestriense;*" the other an epitome of the ecclesiastical history of each parish, with an accurate account of charitable donations and institutions, under the title of "*Notitia Cestriensis,*" compiled with great industry by Dr. Gastrell, bishop of Chester, by whose means the large collections of the Holmes, being offered to sale after the death of Randal

Randal Holme in 1707, were purchased for the Earl of Oxford's library, and have eventually become the property of the public. The principal collector for the History of the City of Chester, was the Rev. Archdeacon Rogers, who died in 1595; his notes were arranged and classed in chapters by his son, who drew up a very curious history of "The laudable Exercises yearly used within the Citie of Chester;" a copy of these collections is among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and another in the possession of William Nicholls, esq. of Chester.

"It appears by Dr. Gower's *prospectus*, that he was possessed of the originals of some of the collections which he has described, that he had transcripts of some, and that others had been confided to his care by their respective owners. At the time of his death, which happened in 1780, the plan of his work is said to have been nearly completed, and the publication was undertaken in 1792 by John Wilkinson, M.D. who became possessed of all his materials for the history, except such as had been lent to Dr. Gower, and on his death had been returned to their respective owners. Dr. Wilkinson having afterwards declined the task through want of sufficient leisure to fulfil his intentions, all Dr. Gower's collections, with such additions as had been made to them by Dr. Wilkinson, came into the hands of the late William Latham, esq. F.R. and A.S. who, in 1800, published renewed proposals for a History of Cheshire, visited several parts of the county, and made some progress in the undertaking; since his death, which happened in 1807, most of the Cheshire collections above-mentioned, have passed again into the hands of Dr. Wilkinson, in whose possession they now are. The Rev. Mr. Watson, rector of Stockport, made collections relating to that town and neighbourhood, with the intention of publication: they are now in the hands of his son."

Chester forms, of course, the most curious article in the parochial topography. Under Whitegate, we have the following account of Nixon, the Cheshire prophet:

"Here are deposited certain MSS. which are said to be the original prophecies of the celebrated Nixon. The popular story of this supposed prophet, which has been printed in various forms, and is current in every part of the king-

dom, was first published in the early part of the last century. The account given of him is, that he was an illiterate plough-boy, his capacity scarcely exceeding that of an ideot, and that he seldom spoke unless when he uttered his prophecies, which were taken down from his mouth, by some of the bystanders: many traditions relating to him are still current in the neighbourhood of Vale Royal, where his story is implicitly believed; but there are many circumstances which combine to render it suspicious. An anonymous author of "the Life of Robert Nixon, the Cheshire Prophet," places his birth in the reign of Edward IV. but Oldmixon, in his Life of him, says that he lived in the reign of James I. and it is asserted in a letter annexed to the last-mentioned pamphlet, which has the signature of William Ewers, and the date of 1714, that there was an old man, one Woodman, then living at Coppenhall, who remembered Nixon, could describe his person, and had communicated many particulars of his life. The tradition at Vale Royal House, where the above-mentioned manuscripts have been long preserved with great care and secrecy, favours the former account; and were it not so much connected with Vale Royal and the Cholmondeley family, who are known not to have settled at that place before the year 1615, the story would have more the air of probability, if placed at a period so remote. If, according to Oldmixon's account, so extraordinary a person had lived at Vale-Royal in the reign of James I. we might expect to find some mention of him in the parish register either at Over, or Whitegate, both of which have been searched in vain; and it is almost incredible that he should not have been noticed by his contemporaries; yet no mention is made of him either by Webb, who in his Itinerary of 1622, speaks much of the Cholmondeley family, and relates a visit of King James I. to Vale Royal for four days, or by the industrious Randal Holme, who has recorded all the remarkable events and circumstances of his time. Indeed, whatever be the age assigned to Nixon, if his story and his prophecies had been known in the seventeenth century, it seems very extraordinary, that neither of the Holmes should have inserted a single note concerning him, in their voluminous and multifarious collections relating to this county; and that Fuller, who published his "Worthies" immediately

diately after the restoration, when many of Nixon's prophecies are said to have been fulfilled, should also have omitted to notice him. The story of Nixon's death is, that having been sent for by the king, he was accidentally starved, as he himself had foretold; this is said to have happened at Hampton-court, where two places are pointed out by the person who shows the palace, each of which has been said to have been the scene of his famishment. This part of the story will not bear the test of inquiry better than the others; there is no entry in the parish-register of the burial of such a person in the reign of James I.: one of the closets pointed out as that in which Nixon was by accident locked up, was evidently built in the reign of William III. and it is needless to observe, that the whole palace was built subsequently to the reign of Henry VII. which is by some said to have been the time of Nixon's death. When, in addition to these circumstances, we observe that the particulars relating to the Cholmondeleys in the printed accounts of Nixon, are at variance with the real and known history of that family, we cannot help regarding his story as very suspicious, if not wholly legendary."

At the end of all are some useful additions and corrections.

Here also we have to notice "*Herculensis; or Archeological and Philological Dissertations, containing a Manuscript found among the Ruins of Herculaneum, and dedicated (by permission) to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,*" by Messrs. DRUMMOND and WALPOLE.

The following are the titles of the different dissertations. 1. "On the Size, Population, and Political State, of the ancient City of Herculaneum." 2. "On Campania in general, and that Part of it called Felix." 3. "On the Etymology of Herculaneum." 4. "On some Inscriptions found among the Ruins of Herculaneum." 5. "On the Names of Places in the Campania Felix being frequently derived from the Phœnician." 6. "On the Knowledge of the Greek Language, and on the State of the Art of Painting among the Romans, before and about the Time of the Destruction of Herculaneum." 7. "On the Materials on which the Ancients wrote." 8. "Paleographical Observations on the Herculanean Manuscripts; written at Palermo in the Year 1807." 9. "On the Manuscript of Herculaneum *τεπι τας Στοι.*" 10. "Inscriptions at Hercul-

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neum; at Stabiae; Excavations at Pompeii; Inscription there; subject of Pictures" at Herculaneum:" of these, one of the most curious is the ninth dissertation on a manuscript, which Cicero appears to have copied, or compiled from, when digesting his treatise, "*De Natura Dorum.*" "From the first part of it," Mr. Drummond observes, "Cicero has taken the 14th, 15th, and 16th chapters of his first book; but towards the conclusion of the manuscript, I find the charge of atheism urged against the Stoicks with a vehemence which has been avoided by the Roman orator." A complete transcript of the manuscript itself follows the dissertation; together with another copy, in which the gaps and deficiencies of the original have been supplied by the academicians of Portici. The work itself is highly deserving of attention from scholars. Among the plates at the close, the second exhibits the different forms of the Etruscan letters, as preserved by the more eminent antiquaries.

CLASSICAL LITERATURE.

In the new edition of "*Schrevelius's Lexicon,*" by Mr. WATTS, we have a work of great labour and great utility. The advertisement prefixed by the editor will explain its principal advantages:

"Ad Lectorem.

"Quæ in hâc nova editione præstimus, L. B. liceat nobis tibi breviter exponere. In libello concinnando, adhibuimus præcipue quartam Schrevelii editionem Lexici sui Lugduni et Roterodami editam anno MDCLXIV. in 8vo. Hillii porro ejusdem libri editionem Cantabrigiæ MDCLXXXV. in eâdem formâ editam, denique istam quæ ex prelo Patavino prodit in fol. MDCCLV.

"Quo melius et copiosius illustrari possent verborum vis et significatio, molles libri ratione perpetuo servata, ad Lexica Constantini, H. Stephani, Scapulae, Suiceri, et Hederici confugimus, unde multa et utilia desumpta sunt. Editionem adhibuimus Hederici Lipsiensem in 8vo, ab Ernesto curatam MDCLXVIII.

"Verborum ferè mille nunc primùm adjecimus, quæ in re consulumus Græcis scriptoribus, quorum excerpta tironum ubique in manibus sunt.

"In libro excudendo feci, quod potui, ut accuratissimus prodeat; multum tamen debo fidei, diligentie, et peritiae typographi. Siquid peccatum fuerit, homines enim sumus, tu lector benignè condonabis.

R. W."

"Prid. cal. Feb. MDCCCX."

A more splendid work upon the
FINE ARTS

than the first volume of "Specimens of Ancient Sculpture, *Ægyptian, Etruscan, Greek, and Roman, selected from different Collections in Great Britain, by the Society of Dilettanti,*" has not often made its appearance. Prefixed is a "Dissertation on the Rise, Progress, and Decline of Ancient Sculpture;" confined to the mimetic or technical part of the art. To go minutely through the contents of this dissertation would occupy more space than can be here allowed. It opens with a few remarks on Imitation in general, and the primitive efforts of art; traces sculpture first among the *Ægyptians*, and afterwards among the Hindoos, *Phœnicians*, and *Etruscans*; and devotes a space of letter-press to the Greek and Roman periods of its history, adequate to the prodigious superiority which those nations evinced over every other state, in works of real taste and genius.

"The most ancient monument of Grecian sculpture (it is observed) now extant, is unquestionably the broken piece of natural relief in the ancient portal to the gates of Mycenæ, which is probably the same that belonged to the capital of Agamemnon, and may therefore be at least as old as the age of Dædalus. It represents two lions rampant, sufficiently entire to afford a very tolerable idea of the style of the work. The plate of it given in the tail-piece to this discourse, is engraved from a sketch made upon the spot, and corrected by admeasurement, by William Gell, esq. and though this does not afford any very accurate information as to the details of the work, the three compositions of the engraved gem given with it are perfectly competent to supply such information; they being in exactly the same style, and having been found in the same country, by the same intelligent and industrious traveller. The head of Minerva on the silver tetradrachm of Athens, engraved in the tail-piece to this volume, fig. 1. is probably copied from the sitting figure of Minerva, made by Endæus above-mentioned; it being far the most archaic of the three variations of the head of that goddess observable on the Athenian coins, previous to those which seem to have been copied from the great statue of brass made by Phidias, and placed in the Acropolis.

"Next to these, the most ancient specimens of Grecian art are probably to be found on coins; and as the dates of

many of these can be fixed with tolerable accuracy, they may serve to show the style and degree of merit of many more important objects mentioned by ancient authors; and to ascertain the periods when others now existing were produced. Coins are said to have been first struck in Greece by Phido of Argos, in the island of *Ægina*, eight hundred and sixty-nine years before the Christian æra; and we have coins still extant of that island, which seem, both by the rudeness of the sculpture, and the imperfection of the striking, to be of nearly as early a date: but as the device is only a tortoise, with an angulated incuse on the reverse, they do not throw much light upon the general style of art.

"Coins however of a form and fabric equally simple and archaic, bearing the devices of other Greek cities both of Europe and Asia, are found with the figures both of men and animals; but as they have no letters, there are no means of ascertaining their respective dates; though they exhibit evident proofs of the infancy of the art; being shapeless masses, generally of native gold, not stamped with the die, but rudely driven into it, first by a blow of a hammer, and then by a square punch or rammer. According to Herodotus, the Lydians were the first who struck coins or made use of money; but it is probable that Greek artists were employed in sinking the dies, as they were afterwards in other works of sculpture, by the sovereigns of that empire. Stamped money in brass was not in use till long after; none of the Greeks being of an early date, and that of the *Etruscans* and early Romans being all cast in moulds."

The subsequent specimens of Grecian sculpture quoted, are arranged in chronological order.

The following observations are on some of the supposed works of Phidias.

"74. Of Phidias's general style of composition, the friezes and metopes of the temple of Minerva at Athens, published by Mr. Stuart, and since brought to England, may afford us competent information; but as these are merely architectural sculptures executed from his designs, and under his directions, probably by workmen scarcely ranked among artists, and meant to be seen at the height of more than forty feet from the eye, they can throw but little light upon the more important details of his art. From the degree and mode of relief in the friezes, they appear

to have been intended to produce an effect like that of the simplest kind of monochromatic painting, when seen from their proper point of sight; which effect must have been extremely light and elegant. The relief in the metopes is much higher, so as to exhibit the figures nearly complete; and the details are more accurately and elaborately made out: but they are so different in their degrees of merit, as to be evidently the works of many different persons, some of whom would not have been entitled to the rank of artists in a much less cultivated and fastidious age."

The account of the Roman period of sculpture is intermixed with a cursory view of the real principles of Roman polity, and the nature and extent of its influence on other nations.

The plates which accompany this work, are no less than seventy-five in number, exclusive of vignettes: many of them in the best styles of the best artists. Among those which are more peculiarly adapted to attract notice are, the head of Osiris, a fragment of a statue in green basaltes; a marble head, from the collection of the marquis of Lansdowne; the side view of a colossal head of Hercules, from the Townleian collection, now at the British Museum, found in the ruins of Hadrian's Villa, at Tivoli; Hercules taming the hind, from the same collection; a bas-relief of one of the Dioscuri; the figure of an Aliptes or Anointer, from the museum of Mr. R. P. Knight; a colossal head of Minerva; the Minerva from Mr. T. Hope's collection; Hygeia, from the same collection; the ancient copy of the Discobolus of Myro; the bronze figure of Jupiter, from Mr. Knight's collection; the marble Hercules, in the marquis of Lansdowne's; the figure of Venus or Dione, formerly belonging to Mr. Townley; the head of Mercury; the head of one of the Homeric heroes; from the earl of Egremont's collection; a pantheic bust of the mystic Bacchus; and a figure of Serapis, from Mr. Knight's.

A specimen of the descriptions which accompany each plate, may be given in that of plate 40. illustrating the Hercules belonging to the late marquis of Lansdowne.

Plate 40.—"This statue was found with the Discobolus, plate 29. in the neighbourhood of Rome; and the late Mr. Townley, to whom the choice of them was immediately offered, was in-

duced, by the drawing and description sent to him, to prefer the latter; though when he saw them, he instantly changed his opinion; this Hercules being, with the exception of the Pan or Faun, at Holkham, incomparably the finest male figure that has ever come into this country, and one of the finest that has hitherto been discovered. It has also the great advantage of being quite entire, except some splinters of the club, and the part of the right leg between the transverse dotted lines in the print. The head has never been off; the hair and features, even to the point of the nose, so seldom preserved, are unbroken, and the lion's skin is its own. Parts of the surface of the body are indeed corroded, but not so as to injure in any degree the effect of the whole, which is peculiarly impressive and imposing; it being placed in a gallery worthy of it, and in the most advantageous light possible; which has enabled the artist, who drew and engraved it, to produce a print so accurate and complete, as to render all description superfluous. We know of no very fine statue, of which so faithful and adequate a representation has been given to the public."

In the front of the class of

POETRY

we place "*The Lady of the Lake*," by MR. WALTER SCOTT. The scene of this poem is laid chiefly in the vicinity of Loh-katrine, in the Western Highlands of Perthshire. The time of action includes six days, and the transactions of each day occupy a canto. The following are the titles of the different cantos. I. The Chase. II. The Island. III. The Gathering. IV. The Prophecy. V. The Combat. VI. The Guard Room.

Our first specimen shall be from the fifteenth stanza of the first canto:

"From the steep promontory gazed
The stranger, raptur'd and amazed,
And, 'What a scene were here,' he cried,
'For princely pomp and churchman's
pride;
On this bold brow, a lordly tower;
In that soft vale, a lady's bower;
On yonder meadow, far away,
The turrets of a cloister grey;
How blithely might the bugle horn
Chide, on the lake, the lingering morn!
How sweet, at eve, the lover's lute
Chime, when the groves were still and
mute!
And, when the midnight moon did lave
Her forehead in the silver wave,

How

**How solemn on the ear would come
The holy matin's distant hum ;
While the deep peal's commanding tone
Should wake, in yonder islet lone,
A sainted hermit from his cell,
To drop a bead with every knell—
And bugle, lute, and bell, and all,
Should each bewildered stranger call
To friendly feast, and lighted hall.' "**

Again, stanza 17:

**" But scarce again his horn he wound,
When lo, forth starting at the sound,
From underneath an aged oak,
That slanted from the islet rock,
A damsel, guider of its way,
A little skiff shot to the bay,
That round the promontory steep
Led its deep line in graceful sweep,
Eddying in almost viewless wave,
The weeping willow twig to lave,
And kiss, with whispering sound and slow,
The beach of pebbles, bright as snow.
The boat had touched this silver strand
Just as the hunter left his stand,
And stood concealed amid the brake,
To view this Lady of the Lake.
The maiden paused, as if again
She thought to catch the distant strain,
With head up-raised, and look intent,
And eye and ear attentive bent ;
And locks flung back, and lips apart,
Like monument of Græcian art :
In listening mood she seemed to stand,
The guardian Naiad of the strand."**

Interspersed throughout are numerous ballads, many of which have considerable merit. The following is from the canto of the Island :

SONG.

**" Not faster yonder rowers' might
Flings from their oars the spray,
Not faster yonder rippling bright,
That tracks the shallop's course in light,
Melts in the lake away,
Than men from memory erase
The benefits of former days ;
Then, stranger, go, good speed thee while,
Nor think again of the lonely isle.**

**" High place to thee in royal court,
High place in battled line,
Good hawk and hound for sylvan sport,
Where beauty sees the brave resort,
The honoured meed be thine.
True be thy sword, thy friend sincere,
Thy lady constant, kind, and dear ;
And lost in love's and friendship's smile,
Be memory of the lonely isle.**

**" But if beneath yon southern sky
A plaided stranger roam,
Whose drooping crest and stifled sigh,
And sunken cheek and heavy eye,
Pine for his highland home ;
Then, warrior, then be thine to show
The care that sooths a wanderer's woe ;
Remember then thy hap ere while,
A stranger in the lonely isle.**

**" Or, if on life's uncertain main,
Mishap shall mar thy sail;
If faithful, wise, and brave, in vain,
Woe, want, and exile, thou sustain
Beneath the fickle gale ;
Waste not a sigh on fortune changed,
On thankless courts, or friends estranged,
But come where kindred worth shall smile,
To greet thee in the lonely isle."**

The close of the last canto affords another specimen of genuine poetry:

**" Harp of the North, farewell ! the hills
grow dark,
On purple peaks a deeper shade descend-
ing ;
In twilight copse the glow-worm lights her
spark,
The deer, half-seen, are to the covert
wending.
Resume thy wizard elm ! the fountain
lending,
And the wild breeze, thy wilder min-
strelsy ;
Thy numbers sweet with nature's vespers
blending,
With distant echo from the fold and
lea,
And herd-boy's evening pipe, and hum of
housing bee.**

**Yet once again, farewell, thou minstrel
harp !**

**Yet once again, forgive my feeble sway,
And little reck I of the censure sharp,
May idly cavil at an idle lay.
Much have I owed thy strains on life's long
way,**

**Through secret woes the world has never
known,
When on the weary night dawned wearier
day,
And bitterer was the grief devoured alone:
That I o'erlive such woes, enchantress ! is
thine own.**

**Hark ! as my lingering footsteps slow retire,
Some spirit of the air has waked thy
string !**

**'Tis now a seraph bold, with touch of fire,
'Tis now the brush of fairy's frolic wing,
Receding now, the dying numbers ring,
Fainter and fainter down the rugged dell,
And now the mountain breezes scarcely
bring**

**A wandering witch-note of the distant
spell—
And now, 'tis silent all !—Enchantress, fare
thee well !'**

The notes at the end, though not very numerous, have interest; and illustrate not only Scottish manners but Scottish history. On the whole, however, though there is much to commend, we cannot say we think that the "Lady of the Lake" is quite equal, in poetical merit, either to the "Lay of the last Minstrel," or "Marmion."

A poem

A poem of a very different description, though of sterling merit, will be found in Mr. CRABBE's "*Borough; in Twenty-four Letters.*" containing the description of an English sea-port town; the different classes of its inhabitants, amusements, almhouses, prisons, schools, &c. The subjects are humble; but Mr. Crabbe has given them an interest by the powers of his pen, attractive to the most fastidious reader.

We shall point out the lines upon the Sea, as the finest passage in the first letter:

"Turn to the watery world! but who to thee
(A wonder yet unview'd) shall paint the sea?
Various and vast, sublime in all its forms,
When lull'd by zephyrs, or when rous'd by storms,
Its colours changing, when from clouds and sun
Shades after shades upon the surface run;
Embrown'd and horrid now, and now serene
In limpid blue, and evanescent green;
And o'er the foggy banks on ocean lie,
Lift the fair sail, and cheat th' experienc'd eye."

The description of the winter storm is admirable. The second letter is devoted to *The Church*, its mural monuments, and their inscriptions, which are touched on with originality and feeling. In the third letter we have the characters of the *Vicar* and the *Curate*. The former closes with the following lines:

"The rich approv'd—of them in awe he stood;
The poor admir'd—they all believ'd him good;
The old and serious of his habits spoke;
The frank and youthful lov'd his pleasant joke;
Mamma approv'd a safe contented guest,
And Miss a friend to back a small request;
In him his flock found nothing to condemn;
Him sectaries lik'd—he never troubled them;
No trifles fail'd his yielding mind to please;
And all his passions sunk in early ease.
Nor one so old has left this world of sin,
More like the being that he enter'd in."

The *Curate's* is a melancholy character. The fourth letter is on *Sects and Professions in Religion*. The fifth is entitled *The Election*: and the sixth treats of the profession of the *Law*. *Physic*, and the different *Trades*, take their turns in the seventh and eighth; and the ninth is devoted to *Amusements*. From *Clubs*

and *Social Meetings*, in the tenth letter, Mr. Crabbe proceeds to *Inns*:

"High in the street, o'erlooking all the place,
The rampant *Lion* shows his kingly face;
His ample jaws extend from side to side,
His eyes are glaring, and his nostrils wide;
In silver shag the sovereign form is drest,
A mane horrific sweeps his ample chest;
Elate with pride, he seems t' assert his reign,
And stands the glory of his wide domain."

The twelfth letter describes the arrival of the *Players*, with their plenantry, labours, patience, vanity, and adventures:

"They might have praise, confin'd to farce alone:
Full well they grin; they should not try to groan."

"Of various men these marching troops are made,
Pen-spurning clerks, and lads contemning trade;
Waiters and servants by confinement teaz'd,
And youths of wealth by dissipation eas'd:
With feeling nymphs, who, such resource at hand,
Scorn to obey the rigour of command;
Some, who from higher views by vice are won,
And some of either sex by love undone;
The greater part lamenting as their fall
What some an honour and advancement call."

The Alms-House and Trustees, form the subject of the thirteenth; and *The Inhabitants of the Alms-House*, those of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth letters. The fourteenth contains the history of a wealthy heir reduced to poverty by dissipation: his fortune is restored by marriage, but again consumed; he goes abroad, but is recalled to a larger inheritance; again becomes poor; and is at last admitted into the alms-house. The character of Clelia, the female inhabitant of the Alms-house, is a master-piece, and gives a lively interest to the fifteenth letter. Clelia was gay and giddy, and at last met with a Lovelace of her day. She was next situated with an attorney. Another such period in her life occurs; and she marries the master of an inn:

"He had no idle retrospective whim,
Till she was his her deeds concern'd not him."

She becomes a widow; and ten years more are past in various trials, views, and troubles:

"Now

"Now friendless, sick, and old, and wanting
bread,
The first-born tears of fallen pride were
shed;
True, bitter tears; and yet that wounded
pride
Among the poor, for poor distinctions sigh'd.
Though now her tales were to her audience
fit,
Though loud her tones, and vulgar grown her
wit;
Though now her dress—(but let me not
explain
The piteous patch-work of the needy-vain;
The flirtish form to coarse materials lent,
And one poor robe through fifty fashions
sent);
Though all within was sad, without was
mean,
Still 'twas her wish, her comfort, to be
seen:
She would to plays on lowest terms resort,
Where once her box was to the beaux a
court;
And, strange delight! to that same house
where she
Join'd in the dance, all gaiety and glee,
Now with the menials crowding to the
wall,
She'd see, not share, the pleasures of the
ball;
And with degraded vanity unfold,
How she too triumph'd in the years of old:
To her poor friends 'tis now her pride to
tell
On what an height she stood before she
fell;
At church she points to one tall seat, and
"There
We sat," she cries, "when my papa was
mayor."
Not quite correct in what she now relates,
She alters persons, and she forges dates;
And finding memory's weaker help decay'd,
She boldly calls invention to her aid.
Touch'd by the pity he had felt before,
For her Sir Denys op'd the Alms-house door;
"With all her faults," he said, "the woman
knew
How to distinguish—had a manner too;
And, as they say, she is allied to some
In decent station—let the creature come."

Benbow, an improper companion for the badgemen of the Alms-house, forms the subject of the sixteenth letter. The *Hospital* fills the seventeenth; and the eighteenth is devoted to *The Poor and their Dwellings*. In the nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first, and twenty-second letters, we have illustrations of distinct characters among the poor—the Parish Clerk—the Widow's Cottage—Abel Keene—and Peter Grimes. In the twenty-third letter, *Prisons* are

treated; and in the twenty-fourth, *Schools*.

Here also we have to notice the Seatonian Prize Poem, by Mr. PRYME, entitled, the "*Conquest of Canaan*;" Mr. SMEDLEY'S "*Erin*;" and an elegant Selection from the Poetical Works of Thomas CAREW.

Among the more humorous productions of the Muse, we have to notice "*The Goblin Groom; a Tale of Dunse*:" by R. O. FENWICK, esq. The following is the general idea of the story of the poem, given in the advertisement. "It turns on the several incidents of a fox-chase, but is called a Tale of Dunse, because in that favourite rendezvous of the logers of the chase, the goblin first made his appearance. That the minds of his readers may be as perfectly prepared as he could wish, for the manners of the age in which it is laid, he apprises them, that the poem opens on the last day of April 1806, and concludes with the death of a fox on Flodden field, twenty-four hours thereafter. The country over which he has accompanied his elfin fay and merry pack, he has viewed with the rapid glance of a sportsman, and therefore trusts, that his hasty and imperfect sketch will not be regarded with the too scrupulous eye of rigid criticism. With all its faults, but without further apology, he commits it to its fate; and, notwithstanding the protecting influence of wire-wove, broad margin, high price, and hot-press, he is not without feeling some apprehensions concerning its success." The poem itself consists of two cantos only: "The Hostel, or Inn;" and "The Fox Chace." The introduction to the first is addressed "to Walter Marrowfat, Gardener to his Grace the duke of B——h;" that of the second, "to Benjamin Buffet," his Grace's butler. The object of the satire will be readily seen.

DRAMA.

First, in the dramatic portion of our Retrospect, we place "*Riches, or the Wife and Brother, a Play in five Acts, founded on Massinger's City Madam*," by SIR JAMES BLAND BURGES. The strange impropriety of sentiment, the indelicacy, and the extravagance of plot, which marked the old play, induced sir James to frame a new comedy entirely, in which he has only introduced the best passages of the original. We have no doubt it will be read with as much attention

tion as it received in its performance at the Lyceum.

"*Hector; a Tragedy in five Acts;*" by J. CH. J. LUCE DE LANCIVAL, performed for the first time at the French Theatre in Paris, Feb. 1, 1809, translated by Mr. MANGIN, though spirited and patriotic, seems still best adapted to the closet.

MISCELLANIES.

A more elegantly written, or a more spirited pamphlet, than the "Reply to the *Calumnies of the Edinburgh Review against Oxford*," has rarely met our notice. It is divided into five chapters. The first treats "of the Study of Aristotle, and Neglect of the Mathematics," in the examination of an Analysis of La Place's *Traité de Méchanique Céleste*. In the second chapter we have the "Examination of a Criticism in the 28th Number of the Edinburgh Review, on Falconer's edition of Strabo;" in which the writer appears to have exerted no ordinary powers of criticism. The third chapter contains "Remarks on an Article upon Edgeworth's Professional Education." The fourth is devoted to the "Course of Studies pursued at Oxford;" and, in the fifth, we have the author's remarks on "Plans of Education in general, and particularly of English Education; Abuse of the term Utility; Remarks on the Study of Political Economy and Moral Philosophy; of some Vulgar Errors respecting Oxford; Conclusion." To give any general idea of the numerous points examined in the different chapters, within the narrow limits of a Retrospect, would be impossible. It may be enough to say, that the reviewer of Strabo seems to be considered as the most powerful opponent of Oxford. On the subject of Political Economy, the study of which has been so often noticed in the Edinburgh Review as neglected at Oxford, we shall present the replier's principal remarks.

"This (he observes) is, beyond a doubt, of all sciences relating to human interests, that in which the greatest progress has been made in modern times; and much honour is due to those writers who have let in light upon this hitherto obscure and unfrequented track. But the effect of novelty and discovery is to attract for a season an undue proportion of public favour. Such appears to me to have been the mistake with regard to Political Economy; and in many instances, it has been a dangerous, if not a mischievous, mistake: for the attainment

of this science seems almost to have supplanted all the other branches of knowledge requisite for a statesman, to have often narrowed his views, and to have made him regard every public measure simply in the relation it bears to national wealth. But this object, as I have already contended, and ever will contend, against the clamorous sciolists of the day, is not the prime business of true policy. However important and even necessary it may be, it is a subordinate and not a predominant concern in public affairs—not less than the management and improvement of an estate in private life, is an inferior duty to the education of children, the maintenance of character, and the guidance of a house.

"Still it cannot be disputed, that the science has a tendency, if rightly studied, to enlarge the mind, and that it will enable a man to perform many of the relative duties of life, both public and private, more correctly. On this account, the introduction of it into the lectures on Modern History has always appeared to me a great improvement; and the still farther extension of the same enquiry would, I am persuaded, be much improved.

"Its great leading principles, however, are soon acquired: the ordinary reading of the day supplies them. And with the majority of students, the more accurate study and investigation of its theorems may well be reserved for those situations and occasions, in which many of them will be placed at some future season, and which afford ample time for the completion of such enquiries. When combined with practical exertions, and called forth by particular occasions, these studies gain a firmer hold, and are pursued with more eager interest. The mind should indeed be early disciplined and fitted for that work: but the work itself may be done when the time comes.

"It is a folly to think that every thing which a man is to know must be taught him while young, as if he were to spring at once from college, and be intrusted with the immediate management of the world; as if life had no intervals for extending knowledge; as if intellectual exercise, and the act of learning, were unbecoming the state of manhood.

"With regard to this science in particular, there are many points in it which make me think it a fitter employment for the mind in an advanced period of life, than when the affections are young and

and growing, and liable to be cramped and stunted by the views of human nature which it continually presents. There is perhaps something in all theoretical views of society which tends to harden the feelings, and to represent man as a blind part of a blind machine. The frame-work of that great structure must, we know, be put together upon such principles; and the more enlarged our sphere of action is, the more correct and luminous ought our notions to be of their relative power and importance. But by far the greater part of those who are educated for active professions have less occasion for contemplating these abstract notions, than for adapting themselves promptly to the limited relations of life in which they are placed; and in which the remedy of evils caused by the friction of the machine and by external accident, requires not that comprehensive view of its whole construction to be for ever present to the mind. It is not then that I would keep these truths out of sight, it is not then that I would deny the utility of them in every sphere and condition; but where a choice is left us among many pursuits, all of which are in their several degrees beneficial, I would be very cautious how that was singled out and made predominant, which is so prone to usurp over the rest, and the abuse of which is not a laughable, but a serious, evil."

Another curious work in this class will be found in Mr. WESTON's "Remains of Arabic in the Spanish and Portuguese Languages. With a Sketch, by way of Introduction, of the History of Spain from the Expulsion of the Moors. Also Extracts from the Original Letters in Arabic to and from Don Manouel and his Governors in India and Africa: followed by an Appendix, containing a Specimen of the Introduction to the Hitopadesa translated into three Languages, the principal Metre of which is that of the Sanscrit." In the appendix, Mr. Weston informs us, "the Hitopadesa, or Amicable Instruction, first known by the unmeaning appellation of Pilpay, Elephant's Foot, and Bidpay, Fat, or Splay Foot, Fables, is the original of Æsop, whose real name was Eswed or Esud, from the Arabic word . . . black. This strengthens the opinion of the Arabs, that Æsop was a Nubian or Abyssinian; and makes it more than probable, that he and Lokman were one and the same."

They who delight in philosophical speculations, will find much amusement

in a volume of Essays which has appeared "On the Sources of the Pleasures received from Literary Compositions." They are, On the Improvement of Taste; on the Imagination, and on the Association of Ideas; on the Sublime; on Terror; on Pity; on Melancholy; on the Tender Affections; on Beauty; and on the ludicrous. The difficulty of such investigations needs no comment on our part.

In this place we may also notice, "A philosophical Inquiry into the Cause, with Directions to Cure, the Dry Rot in Buildings," by JAMES RANDALL, Architect. This most important subject is discussed with much ingenuity, and the reasonings and experiments contained in the little work before us, claim the attention of every builder, and every gentleman who superintends his own works. The author points out the inefficiency of the methods heretofore tried to prevent or cure this formidable evil; he then describes the causes which produce it in the first instance, and determines the remedy. Mr. Randall has no doubt, from repeated experiments and observations, that the Dry Rot, in all cases, arises from a previous state of fermentation, whence proceeds the complete growth of a fungus of which the dry rot consists. The general remedy where the disease has commenced, and the preventative in all new buildings, is oxydation either by means of fire or the nitric acid. The indestructibility of wood oxydated by fire, or, in other words, of wood that has been charred, was known to the ancients; but as it is impossible to subject many of the parts of buildings to the operation of fire, Mr. Randall has discovered that the same may be effected by the acid process of oxydation by affinity. The author has given a full explication of his theory, and laid down such rules for the practice as may be understood and applied by common workmen.

Another work of considerable interest in the miscellaneous class, will be found in "Illustrations of the Lives and Writings of Gower and Chaucer;" collected from authentic documents, by the Rev. HENRY J. TODD. Of these the first and most considerable is the entire manuscript of Francis Thynne, entitled "Animadversions upon the Annotations and Corrections of some Imperfectiones and Impressiones of Chaucer's Workes, (sett downe before tyme and nowe) reprinted in the yere of our Lord, 1598." The second division of the Illustrations contains

contains two documents of no trifling importance; the Will of Gower, and the copy of a Deed, dated in 1346, which appears to prove that he was of the house of Gower of Stitenham; copied from the original in the library of the marquis of Stafford. The third division of the Illustrations contains "An Account of some valuable Manuscripts of Gower and Chaucer," which Mr. Todd has had an opportunity of examining. The fourth exhibits "Extracts from Gower's *Confessio Amantis*." The fifth contains Chaucer's Prologue to the "Canterbury Tales," and "The Floure and the Leaf;" accompanied by numerous Notes. The sixth presents us with "Some Poems supposed to be written by Chaucer during his Imprisonment;" found at the beginning of lord Stafford's Manuscript of the Canterbury Tales, on two leaves before the prologue. To strengthen his opinion that they are the composition of Chaucer, Mr. Todd has selected several parallel passages from the genuine writings of the poet. The first of these poems opens:

"Hafte in dede sclepe, not fully revyved,
Rudely my sylfe as I lay alone,
With troubled dremes sore was I mevyd,
All worldly joy passed and overgone:
Me semyd full sore I made my mone;
Mynde, thought, resonable wythe had I none;
Thus I lay sclombering aowre to my dome.
As thus I lay avexed full sore
In such thynges, as of right by the agayne
nature,
I herde a voyce seyyng, Sclepe thou no more.
Aryse and wake to thy besy cure;
Thy mynde, thy hert, thy body thou allure
To such that wyll fall next, tho thy mynde;
Take thy penne in thy hand, stedfaste and
sure;
Awake, awake, of comfort full blynde."

On the tenth of these verses, Mr. Todd observes, "The Commentators on Shakespeare will be delighted with this poem, if it be only for the sake of placing the exclamation in this line under that of Macbeth:

"Methought I heard a voice cry, Sleep no
more!
Macbeth has murder'd sleep."

The conclusion of the second poem is not less deserving the reader's perusal:

"Go lytell balade, full of rude composition,
Softe and mekely no thyng to holde;
Pray all, that of the shall have inspexion,
Thy derke ignoraunce that they pardon wolde;
Sey that thou were made in a pryon colde,
Thy makir standyng in dysese and grevaunce,
Which causid hym the so symply to
avaunce!"

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At the end of all is a valuable glossary of eighty pages. In placing Gower before Chaucer, both in what relates to the manuscripts of his poetry, and in the extracts made from his works, Mr. Todd has merely consulted chronological propriety. Prefixed to the title is a full-length portrait of Chaucer, from lord Stafford's manuscript. In another part of the work are accurate engravings of the tombs of both poets.

Another valuable work, though of a humbler description in the miscellaneous class, will be found in Mr. MORTIMER's "*Grammar, illustrating the Principles and Practice of Trade and Commerce; for the Use of Young Persons intended for Business*." It opens with a few general definitions, followed by an enumeration of the principal branches of trade and manufacture in Great Britain and Ireland. An alphabetical list of merchantable commodities is next introduced; followed by a collection of commercial towns, usages, and institutions; a list of the principal ports of every trading nation throughout the world, with the branches of commerce peculiar to each; a list of the canals of Great Britain and Ireland; an account of all the real and imaginary monies in the world, with their values in British sterling; a table of the agreement which the weights of the principal places in Europe have with each other; commercial marks and characters; a commercial nomenclature of the denominations of the chief articles of trade, in twelve different languages; maxims of experience; and questions.

Here also we shall give a place to Major CHAMBERLIN's "*Practical Instructions to Young Officers, relative to the interior Discipline of a Regiment of Foot*." They appear principally designed for officers commanding local militia and volunteers, and for young officers in general, whose opportunities of becoming acquainted with the interior economy of a battalion have been few.

In the miscellaneous class also, as it has no companion to accompany it in its own class, we shall place Dr. DICKSON's "*Grammar of the First Principles of Agriculture*;" furnishing a means by which to instil useful and important facts into the minds of young persons, who are likely to pass their lives in rural occupations, whether as country gentlemen, or practical farmers. At the end is a glossary of terms.

Mr. ALEXANDER CHALMERS's "*History of the University of Oxford, including*

ing the Lives of the Founders," with a series of illustrative engravings, by Messrs. Storer and Greig, in two volumes 8vo, has been published too recently to admit of a full report of its contents here. From a slight glance, we have formed a very high opinion of its merits. In our next Retrospect, we shall give the result of a more careful examination.

"The Fourth Report of the Directors of the African Institution, read at the Annual General Meeting on the 28th of March, 1810," forms a tract of no inconsiderable interest. We regret, however, to learn from it, that the slave-trade is still carried on to a great extent, principally by natives of the United States. It contains also a communication from the commandant of Senegal, relative to the probability of Mr. Mungo Park being still alive.

Mr. HIGHMORE'S "Pietus Londinensis: the History, Design, and present State of the various Public Charities in and near London," will be found a work not only of real but general utility. The subjects are classed under the heads of Hospitals, Dispensaries, Colleges, and Alms-houses, School Charities, and Miscellaneous Charities; with an alphabetical arrangement of each. To the produce of personal research, Mr. Highmore has added all that could throw light upon his subject, from the works of Stowe, Strype, Tanner, Canden, Gough, Maitland, Lettsom, Lysons, Malcolm, &c.

Last of all, in the miscellaneous class, we shall notice TABART'S "Moral Tales," in prose and verse, selected and

revised from the best authors. They are comprised in four small volumes, and form almost a little library for children. The following are the titles of the different tales. Vol. 1. The Vanity of Human Life.—The Basket-Maker.—Edwin and Angelina.—Bozalab.—The Mountain of Miseries.—The Town and Country Mice.—The Vision of Almet.—Tom Restless.—The Youth and the Philosopher.—Prosperity and Adversity.—Abbas and Mirza.—The Admirable Crichton.—Cruelty to Horses.—The Three Warnings.—Religion and Superstition Contrasted.—The Story of Pellems.—The Hermit.—The Sailor.—Alexander and Septimius; and the Progress of Discontent. Vol. 2. The Vision of Theodore.—History of a Country Apothecary.—Edwin and Emma.—Story of La Roche.—Story of Geminus and Gemellus.—The Wall-Flower.—Journey to the Moon.—Sir Bertrand.—Palemon and Lavinia.—Ormah.—The Talisman of Truth.—The Experiment.—Memoirs of a Cornish Curate; and Inkle and Yarico. Vol. 3. Chaubert the Misanthropist.—The Judgment of Hercules.—Ibrahim and Adelaide.—The Chameleon.—Story of Mr. Saintfort.—Junis and Theana.—The Credulous Chaldean.—John Gilpin.—Charles Fleetwood. The Bee, the Lily of the Valley, and the Tulip.—Albert Bane.—The Indian Cottage; and Bianca Capello. Vol. 4. The Little Hermitage.—Nouraddin and Amana.—The Art of Happiness.—Jeannot and Colin.—Carazan and Belarius.

HALF-YEARLY RETROSPECT OF FRENCH LITERATURE.

HISTORY.

"ESSAI sur L'Esprit et l'Influence de la Reformation de Luther, &c."—An Essay on the Spirit and Influence of the Reformation produced by Luther; a work which gained the prize offered by the National Institute of France, for a Question to this purport. 3d edit. Printed at Paris, and imported by M. De Boffe, Nassau-street, Soho.

This work, the production of C. VITIERS, a corresponding member of the National Institution of France, and a member of the Royal Society of Sciences at Gottingen, has produced a considerable sensation, not only throughout France and England, but Europe. After examining and defining his subject, the au-

thor inquires into the nature of reformatioins in general, and maintains that mankind have hitherto been gainers by them. Greece and Italy, during their early days, were far behind those countries at the epochs of their civilization. Their acquisitions, however, appertain exclusively to their own citizens, and were not shared by mankind in general: all the rest of the globe was barbarous; the people were either born slaves, or became so in fact.

But there are two ways of dispersing knowledge; such as when a small yet enlightened people conquers innumerable nations sunk in darkness, or when a variety of ignorant nations overcome a small collection of inhabitants, and amalgamate

amalgamate with them, so as to attain a portion of their knowledge. The Romans afford a specimen of one of these modes, as they carried light with them wheresoever they went; the children of the North, who precipitated themselves towards the south of Europe, and carried their darkness along with them, exhibit an instance of another.

"On this, chaos seemed to be reproduced; and it required ten centuries of fermentation before so many heterogeneous elements could assimilate. At length, however, light was every where seen amidst the darkness. During the three or four first centuries it extended, and made a rapid progress. At length, the culture of Athens and Rome was beheld and practised, not only throughout the whole of Europe, but also at Calcutta and Philadelphia. Rome and Athens, both of which would be astonished at our arts and knowledge, would also admire the humanity of the European, who glories in being a man, and will no longer suffer slavery to exist on his soil."

While treating of modern reformers, the author alludes to the great events of antiquity. He represents Moses as "leaving Egypt at the head of a body of mutinous slaves, who were both sensual and superstitious, yet of whom it was necessary to make obedient subjects; men at once capable of undertaking any thing, and animated against every nation that occupied any land in which they might be desirous to establish themselves. On this occasion, Moses directed the reformation of his people in the best possible manner, for the accomplishment of his designs.

"Mahomet, on the other hand, reformed a free and lofty nation; sensual indeed to excess, but capable of virtue and exaltation. He knew how to impress on them a great character, and reduced to very simple terms the external form of that pure deism which he preached. Both of these amalgamated the religious constitution which ought to appertain to all men, with the political constitution which should appertain to only one nation; and, thus confounding the church and the state, rendered their religion merely local.

"As to Jesus, in conformity to his celestial origin, he separated the cares of the state from those of religion, loudly proclaiming that its empire was not of this world. The divine reform operated by him, in opposition to the other two,

was cosmopolitical or catholic, according to the true etymology of the term. Yet the spirit of Christ was no longer visible in the constitution of the Christian church in the fifteenth century. Every thing was altered and confounded; and a reform, an appeal to the primitive spirit, became necessary, which was produced in part by Luther, the principal and most courageous author of it."

Two objects, we are told, have become particularly dear to mankind, and it is not uncommon to behold them sacrifice all their other interests, and even life itself, to these. The first is the preservation of our social rights; the second, the independence of our religious opinions, or liberty in respect to evil and conscientious notions. Both of these dispositions prevailed in most parts of Europe at the commencement of the 16th century; for every nation, deprived of its civil and religious liberty, began to feel the weight and the indignity of its chains, while those who still enjoyed a certain degree of independence, shuddered at the idea of its loss.

All the states of the Germanic confederation had been long agitated by the obstinate disputes between the emperors, successors of Cæsar, and the pope's successors of St. Peter: this was a struggle for a unlimited monarchy over the ancient territory of the Roman empire. Both parties affected equal rights over Rome; and it was evident that the master of Rome was also to be the master of the empire; so difficult is it to root out vulgar prejudices! Rome had long been the capital of the world, and a great contest took place in order to determine who should remain in possession of the sovereign city. The quarrel had for object—to which of those two rivals mankind were to submit? the world disputed literally for the choice of tyrants. The modern successors of Charlemagne called themselves Cæsars, and because the ancient Cæsars had been masters of Rome, and Rome was the mistress of Europe, it appeared an unanswerable argument that they should reign both over Rome and Europe! The claims of the pope's were not quite so clear: as Rome was the natural mistress of all the universe, and the prince who had resided so long at Rome was the chief of the empire, it was deemed evident that the bishop of Rome ought to be at the head of the church! In after times, when Rome was without an emperor, the consideration of the pontiff increased; he was

was then the first person there, and the second when that great monarch was present. He presented the crown to him, and after a while was said to confer it. Having thus disposed of the first of crowns, it was concluded that all the others were equally at his command. Sovereign over an innumerable clergy, who were rich, active, and to be met with every where, he reigned over all consciences by this means, and thus became the vicar of Jesus Christ upon earth; in short, the ruler over kings! If any one withdrew from this authority, which emanated from Heaven, he was anathematised by the pontiff, and repulsed from the communion of the faithful, while his timid subjects withdrew from him, as if he had been affected with the plague.

The author next proceeds to consider three points immediately connected with his subject:

1. The political state of the European nations; their internal position; their situation in respect to each other, as well as in regard to the head of the empire; and the church, during the sixteenth century.

2. The religious state of these same nations, with their greater or less degree of submission to the head of the empire; and that of the church.

And, 3. The state of the sciences and of Europe, during the same period.

I. Political Situation.

Out of the wreck of the Roman empire in the West, was formed a number of states, governed chiefly by those northern leaders who had overturned the ancient establishments. By degrees feeble and powerful, they changed their masters and their forms, according to the tide of events, rising, increasing, diminishing, and becoming extinguished, without the remotest idea of an union among the feeble in opposition to the strong; or, in other words, that grand idea by which a balance of power is established. Meanwhile, however, the feudal aristocracy began to lose its consistency; the crusades, and other wars, had impoverished the nobles; commerce and industry had enriched the commercial class; while the knowledge diffused among the latter, and which awakened a sense of the prerogatives of man, and his natural rights, served to produce the establishment of a "civil existence" for the third estate, which gave it influence in every government. The burghers of some cities which had declared them-

selves free, even dared to assume the sovereignty.

Italy was at this period divided into a number of feeble states, some monarchical, and others republican; and being distracted by jealousies or hatred on one side, and the broils of the barons and lords on the other, who affected independence, was still the unhappy theatre of the invasions of powerful neighbours, such as the French, Germans, and Spaniards, all of whom aspired to form establishments, some at Naples, and others at Milan, Mantua, &c. This country, for a long period the richest in Europe, was now on the eve of beholding the source of its opulence exhausted, in consequence of the new discoveries in navigation by the Portuguese and Spaniards.

The Turks had seized on the capital of the Eastern empire, and carried their victorious arms into the West. Calabria and Hungary were invaded by them, and they had approached the very gates of Vienna.

Poland, at this period, possessed but little influence, and although governed during the first half of the sixteenth century by Sigismund I. yet she carried within her own bosom the principles of her own weakness. This was increased by the jealousy subsisting between the Lithuanians and the Poles, both of whom acknowledged the same head, but manifested (particularly the former of these) an extreme repugnance to an union. This country was engaged in frequent wars with the Turks and Muscovites, as well as with the Teutonic knights, who, under pretext of converting the infidels, gave birth to the kingdom of Prussia.

Russia was then in a manner unknown to the West of Europe, where she has since acquired such a great ascendancy. The kings of Denmark had subjugated Sweden; but Gustavus Vasa, a hero, shook off the yoke, and became the legitimate king of the nation which he had delivered: both of these countries, however, were almost in a state of nullity in respect to the southern States.

Meanwhile the north of Germany, governed by the Saxon princes, was parcelled out into little territories, and this portion of the empire beheld a redoubtable league of commercial cities united together by ties of common interest. The Hanse towns formed a league, in order to oppose the pillage of these feudal robbers, who from their castles, or rather dens, infested all the roads in their vicinity,

cinity, and plundered the merchants during their journeys from one city to another. The cities of Lombardy and the Rhine, entered into similar confederations; and these associations of free-men, possessing a beneficent activity, constitute a portion of the small number of establishments truly humane, from which modern nations derive any glory during those early times.

Bohemia, so far as liberty of conscience was concerned, exhibited a republican spirit. The partisans of John Huss had displayed equal bravery and firmness in respect to their religious belief, and the capitulation entered into by the princes of the house of Austria, afforded a bright example to the rest of the Christian world.

The south of Germany chiefly appertained to the house of Austria, which, adorned with the imperial dignity, and enriched with the states of Burgundy, under Maximilian and the crown of Spain, during the time of his successor Charles V. as well as with a portion of Italy, no longer disguised its designs for attaining universal monarchy.

France, which was destined to concur in saving Europe from this state of opprobrium, had just repulsed the English from her territories. The permanent and mercenary army which she had been obliged to keep on foot, served to reunite the chief provinces to the crown, to despoil the great and the little vassals, and enrich the state at their expense.

Between France and Austria, and "at the expense of the latter," was formed a republic of simple and energetic mountaineers, who exhibited all the courage and all the virtues of the ancient Spartans. England, which had so long neglected that maritime superiority for which she seemed destined by nature, and had consumed her strength in acquiring a few provinces in the west of France, "was lucky enough to be driven back into her own island." This was fortunate for the inhabitants, who henceforth employed all their activity towards the establishment of her liberty, and the increase of her fleets. Even then she was one of the first powers of Europe, and would have played a far more important part, had Henry VIII. been less occupied with his passions, his amours, and his cruelties.

Spain had expelled the Moors; and Ferdinand, by the marriage of Isabella, joined Castile to Arragon. These united states were inherited by Charles V.,

and under him formed a mere province of the Austrian monarchy.

In the mean time, the political system, and the new species of war introduced, became more favourable to the great powers. The invention of artillery rendered petty castles useless, and little princes and states were unable to build extensive fortresses. Europe too, did not seem large enough for its inhabitants, who now discovered the way to America and the Indies; in short, a new epoch seemed to be at hand.

II. Religion.

Superstition, which had more or less tormented all the European nations, began to relax among some of them, and men were every where to be found who combated it with effect. The doctrines of the Vaudois and Albigeois in France, was not forgotten; Wickliffe had been listened to in England; and Huss in Bohemia. Many of the princes were shocked at the pretensions of the Roman pontiff; some dared to oppose him openly; and the university of Paris served more than once as the organ of the sovereign power in reply to the menaces of Rome. An appeal was openly made to a future council, which was unreservedly declared to be superior to the pope.

A few sovereigns, however, still bent their knee to his Holiness. Charles V. was obliged, from policy, to court him, in order to maintain his consequence in Italy. His subjects in Spain too, where the inquisition had been introduced, and where the terror produced by the Moors had consigned the people to the most deplorable superstition, would have instantly revolted against their sovereign had he appeared a less zealous catholic than themselves.

Those countries which enjoyed a republican constitution, and which seemed most addicted to liberty, of course exhibited themselves the least timid in respect to Rome. The noble firmness with which the senate of Venice constantly opposed her usurpations, is well known; and there were cantons "essentially republican in Holland and Holstein, and all the lower parts of Germany, which never had been really papists, and whom the reformation found already reformed."

Besides, the eyes of mankind began to be opened. The impolitic violence of some popes; the scandalous lives of others; the licentiousness of their courts and their capital; the immoral lives of the clergy; the ignorance and effrontery

of several mendicant orders; the seventy years captivity at Avignon; the forty years of schism that followed; the rival pretensions of two and sometimes three popes, who excommunicated each other; the abuse of indulgences; the exactions of all kinds; the intolerance and cruelties of the inquisition: all these raised up enemies to the Roman hierarchy—the power which was founded solely on opinion, and opinion had now begun to be its enemy!

In fine, a thousand voices were raised to invoke a reformation of the church both in the head and in the members, in faith and in morals. "Three councils in immediate succession, those of Pisa, Constance, and Basil, had discovered and probed the wounds of this old body. Discontent had become more general than ever at the commencement of the sixteenth century; and in the very midst of this state of things, a young and voluptuous Medicis ascended the pontifical throne. A friend to the fine arts, whence he expected nothing but celebrity and enjoyment; an artful but a presumptuous politician; prepossessed with scorn against the grossness of the Germans, under which he did not discover a profoundness and a virility of character; all the energy of which he was destined to experience. Leo X. did not possess sufficient vigour to engage with Luther; so that the haughty weakness of the one prepared a harvest of success for the intrepid firmness of the other.

III. Knowledge.

The ignorance brought along with them by the barbarians of the North, seconded by long and civil wars, had almost effaced every trace of mental cultivation. The little knowledge propagated during the middle ages existed only among the ecclesiastics, and in the cloisters, where the study of the Roman language, which had become that of the Roman church, served to keep up some communication with the writers of ancient Rome. Study was, in a great measure, interdicted to the laity, and that of the ancient languages was considered as a species of idolatry; while the reading of the Scriptures was wholly prohibited.

"For any one to read the Bible, without permission from his superiors, had been long considered a crime; to translate it into the vulgar language, was a temerity that called for punishment. An universal and impenetrable darkness became the necessary consequence; and

the horrible inquisition was invented, to extinguish in blood and tears, every ray of that light which might be shed by chance on the bosom of night. But the efforts of man cannot always suspend the course of nature. The university of Paris had already followers and imitators worthy of her, both in Germany and in England. Wirtemberg, where Luther and Melanthon were professors, had been founded; princes learned to glory in being the protectors of letters; while the ancient languages, history and criticism, began to be taught, notwithstanding the clamours of the partisans of ignorance. Science now started from her fetters, and by degrees discovered her ancient compact with error. Commerce to different countries, and the discovery of a new world, had rendered mankind predisposed to receive new ideas. The art of printing, an incalculable benefit to the human race, had been invented on the banks of the Rhine: in another extremity of Germany, on the borders of the Vistula, Copernicus had reformed our knowledge of the heavens, and developed truths which the pontifical bulls have never since been able to change."

Erasmus of Rotterdam, was at the head of those who declared on the side of knowledge. Reuchlin, a famous German philologist, excited a lively enthusiasm for the study of languages, particularly the Greek and Hebrew; but he was opposed by the Dominican Hockstraten, who had obtained an imperial edict to burn all Hebrew books, as destructive to the true faith.

IV. The Reformation.

Under this head we are told, that Christianity was introduced at different times among different nations, and that it every where received local modifications, in conformity to the genius of the people. On its alteration to the "catholic faith," it was changed also in its very essence by the innovations of the court of Rome, its monks, and theologians. The "catholicity" of the present day is also different in different places; that of Madrid being unlike that of Paris, and that of Rome dissimilar to that of Vienna: those varieties all proceeding from the varieties in the characters of the nations.

The luxury and corruption of the Asiatics, had been transplanted into the city of the Cæsars. There worship became an object of sense, and religion a mythology; pompous ceremonies supplied the place of simple prayers; while saints

saints and images became the vain substitutes of a God almost forgotten, and the immediate objects of devotion. It resulted from this superstition, that every Italian became either a papist or an atheist; and that he either adored our lady of Loretto, or adored no one. Accordingly, never were there so many atheists as in the immediate vicinity of the sovereign pontiff.

On the other hand, the people of Saxony had not been rendered effeminate by luxury, by opulence, or a mild climate. "There resided an indigenous nation, bold and energetic, which until the ninth century had never been subdued. It had once arrested the flight of the Roman eagle, which could never penetrate into its provinces on the banks of the Elbe; at a latter period, the same nation had given conquerors to Europe; for the Angles, the Normans, the Burgundians, the Franks, all swarms from Saxony, had overcome Great Britain, the Gauls, and other nations of the West.

"Those who remained at home, were attached to the antiquity and simplicity of their ancient worship; and it was not until after a desperate resistance of thirty-three years, that Charlemagne succeeded in making them adopt Christianity, which they did most heartily, and according to its unsophisticated principles. They did not in after times, like their southern neighbours, display any great knowledge of the fine arts; but, in conformity to their ancient character, turned their minds towards the abstract sciences, philosophy, and historical research. Accordingly, when the reformation took place, there was not found one single theologian of Italy, who was able to enter the lists with those of Saxony. She might boast of her poets and her painters, but could never produce a Luther."

While the Saxons felt that indignation which seemed more peculiar to their character than that of any other portion of Europe, Leo X determined to inflict on the Christian world "the onerous impost of a new indulgence." The pretext was the erection of the church of St. Peter; but this was not the only motive, as the pontiff had "given by anticipation to a beloved sister, the sum arising out of the levy from the countries extending between Lower Saxony and the Baltic Sea. This circumstance," it is added, "was known to all the world; and the Dominican Tetzel had the au-

dacity to repair to the vicinity of Würtemberg, to open his traffic in indulgences, to proclaim his venal mission, and to support his cause by means of sermons of too extravagant and gross a nature to be easily credited at the present day."

This friar was immediately opposed by the hero of these pages; by Martin Luther, a doctor, a priest, and an Augustine monk. He was then professor of philosophy and theology at the new university of Würtemberg, where, we are told, a love of the science, of true religion, and of the liberty of thinking, prevailed at that period. He is described as descended from a poor and obscure family, and was raised to the post he then occupied by his talents alone.

"He had addicted himself with ardor to those novel studies cultivated by the most eminent geniuses of his age; and no sooner had the first rays of the sun illuminated the lofty summits of the mountains, than he perceived, long before the vulgar, the new day that was approaching. Inflamed by an indefatigable zeal, and a prodigious memory, he attained a critical knowledge of the holy Scriptures, the Fathers, and other ecclesiastical antiquities. One of his principal views was to overturn the prevailing customs of the schools of those days, by banishing Aristotle from the domain of theology, and demonstrating how much, by the singular mixture of logic and Pagan philosophy with the doctrine of Christianity, the first had been misunderstood, and both determinated. The leading features of his individual character, which had such an influence on the reformation, consisted of energy and rectitude. Ardent and yet calm, lofty and yet at the same time humble, violent in his speech when provoked, mild and hostile to all violence in his actions, open, jovial, and even a good companion at the tables of the great; studious, sober, and a Stoic, at home, yet nevertheless courageous and disinterested at the same time, he was ready to expose himself to every risk for what he regarded as the truth."

Such was the man, who, having visited Rome, there beheld its corruptions; and who, on the approach of Tetzel, exposed the abuses resulting from the sale of indulgences, and the danger of believing that pardon might be purchased for all crimes for money, while a sincere repentance, and an amended life, could alone appease Divine justice.

The

The Dominican replied in a furious style; and Luther, in his rejoinder, called in question the authority of the pope, and thus gave the signal for a general insurrection. He was seconded by Melancthon and Carlostadt, both of Wirtemberg; in Switzerland, by Zuinglius; and in France, by Calvin; in consequence of which a great number of individuals, not only in those countries, but also in Poland, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, and England, separating themselves from the see of Rome, refused both obedience and tribute to its head.

Great political events arose out of these ecclesiastical commotions, and the princes of the north of Germany, unable to resist the house of Austria by ordinary means, beheld in this new enthusiasm of their people, an unhoped-for means of resistance against the Austrian arms. Thence also resulted an intimate union between each petty sovereign and his people, as well as an alliance among whole nations, so that a general federation, hitherto considered as chimerical, was the consequence; and the league of Smalcalde, accordingly exhibited the first efficacious re-union of free states and princes against their oppressors, in modern Europe. From this too, first resulted liberty of conscience. Meanwhile, the tempting bait afforded by the treasures of the clergy, which each sovereign seized in his own behalf; the wish for independence, and the satisfaction of exhibiting an inveterate hatred against the usurpations of Rome, induced many monarchs to follow the popular torrent. Charles V. was indeed prevented from policy; and although Francis I. did not adopt the new doctrines, yet he seconded the efforts of the Protestants with all his power.

The reformation however was clouded by the civil war produced on the part of the peasants of Suabia and Franconia, and the short reign of the anabaptists of Munster, and their king John of Leyden: against those excesses, both Luther and Melancthon wrote with their usual energy and effect.

At length, after the peaceful reigns of four different emperors, we behold the agitated and troublesome times of Ferdinand II. "a prince both ambitious and devout, and entirely governed by the Jesuits his confessors." The first symptoms of the approaching tempest, proceeded from a quarrel relative to the articles of religion entered into with the Bohemians; and the extirpation of Pro-

testanism, as well as the annihilation of the Germanic liberties, was now resolved upon. This contest, which endured for thirty years, ravaged all Europe, annihilated agriculture, commerce, and industry, and retarded the progress of the sciences in Germany.

After a struggle of twelve years, the confederated princes, notwithstanding their constancy and valour, were about to succumb, "when Gustavus Adolphus the worthy successor of Vasa, left his kingdom at the head of a powerful army and at the expense of his own life, which he lost in the arms of victory at the battle of Lutzen, saved the Germanic liberties, and perhaps those of all Europe, as well as that faith which was common to him, and the princes of the evangelical league. The annals of no nation perhaps, present a period more worthy of admiration than the eighteen campaigns of the Swedes in Germany. France also joined her victorious arms to support the Protestant interest; and it was in that war that the names of Guebriant, Puysegur, Turenne, and Condé, became illustrious; while the French monarchs then began to acquire a marked preponderance in the affairs of the North. It was the reformation too, that produced the two most celebrated assemblies that modern Europe had witnessed: the council of Trent, in respect to religious affairs; and the congress of Munster and Osnaburgh, which put an end to the thirty years war by the treaty of Westphalia, a masterpiece of human prudence and sagacity, which for the first time consolidated the European nations into a regular and connected system of political bodies. It was during this congress, that the art of negotiating attained perfection; that the necessity of an equilibrium of power, and of a weight and counter-weight, by which the more strong might be kept in order and the more feeble protected, first became evident.

"Upon the whole, a little more prudence and reverence on the part of the court of Rome, a little less inflexibility on the part of our reformer, or a greater degree of indifference on the side of the associated princes, might have stifled this grand explosion at its commencement. It required a Luther to produce it, and the intervention of a variety of favourable symptoms, to prevent his efforts from having been made in vain."

Conjectures.

Under this head it is argued, that but for the reformation, Europe must have beheld

beheld and experienced the humiliating servitude arising out of universal monarchy. It is also asserted, that religion was the only question that could have united all men in one common cause, and prevented the pope from becoming the grand lama of the West, or one of the modern Cæsars from being as powerful as the ancient ones. A pontiff (Boniface VIII.) had already conceived the idea of placing the imperial crown on his own head; and one emperor (Maximilian I.) had resolved to cover his with the imperial *tiara*. It is the fixed opinion of our author, that nothing can be more false than the position, "That the successive progress of knowledge would have insensibly produced the same results, and spared all those miseries that arise out of internal commotions and long wars." He thinks, that without the great event of the Reformation, the world would have still remained in utter darkness; and he maintains, that it has not only changed the state of the Protestant countries, but also that of the Catholic ones, who have been insensibly "reformed" by the benefit of its example.

It is almost unnecessary to remark, that this is a most important work, and that the decisive approbation of a celebrated literary society, existing in a catholic country, and enjoying the confidence of its monarch, forms a singular event during the present age.

BIOGRAPHY.

"*Notice sur la Vie et les écrits de Don Félix de Azara.*"—A Notice relative to the Life of Don Felix D'Azara, by C. A. WALCKANAER.

It was in consequence of a geographical error that Columbus, who was in search of the luxuries of Asia, discovered a new world to Spain. At first, a prodigious number of literary productions were published concerning the wonders of America, and eagerly perused by those who were incited by a desire of gold and of novelty, rather than of instruction. But at length, the Spaniards and the Portuguese having obtained a bull from the court of Rome, conferring a large portion of the earth on their monarchs, another line of policy was immediately marked out, and has been until of late most strictly followed. From that moment they both displayed such a spirit of jealousy, that they not only excluded foreigners from the countries which they had already discovered, but even from the very territories with which

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they still remained unacquainted. They considered all those who wished to penetrate into the remote regions of America as the usurpers of their own future acquisitions, and not only seized the ships, but punished the navigators.

Accordingly, during more than two whole centuries, Europe remained in the utmost ignorance relative to every thing connected with Southern America; and had it not been for the French revolution, and the circumstances attendant on that singular event, a veil would have still concealed those interesting regions from the prying eyes of curiosity and of science.

Don Felix d'Azara, who was destined to visit it, and to describe the Spanish settlements in the New World, is a native of Old Spain. He was born at Barbinales, near Balbastro, on the 18th of May, 1746. His parents resided on this estate, at a distance from the great theatre of the world, and founded their happiness on the most pleasant of all duties—that of superintending the education of their children.

Don Felix, the younger son, appears to have commenced his studies at the University of Huesca, in Arragon, and after having completed the philosophical branch of instruction, was sent to the military academy of Barcelona. In 1764 he became a cadet in the 11th regiment of Galician infantry, and had an interview with his elder brother, from whom he was afterwards separated during an interval of thirty-five years.

In 1767, the subject of this memoir was nominated an ensign in the corps of engineers, and in 1775 obtained the rank of lieutenant. It was in this capacity that he accompanied the expedition destined against Algiers, and being one of the first who landed, he immediately received a severe contusion from a ball composed of copper, which was cut out by a sailor with his knife, while the youth lay senseless on the beach. Five whole years elapsed before the wound closed; it re-opened five years after while residing in America, and was finally cured without any medical application whatsoever.

In 1776, Don Felix attained the rank of captain, and was soon after sent abroad in the service of his native country. The courts of Spain and Portugal, which had long waged a petty colonial war against each other in America about the limits of their respective settlements, at length agreed to terms of

peace; these were fixed and agreed upon by the treaty of the Pardo, in 1778. On this occasion, commissioners were nominated on both sides, to determine the limits of the possessions appertaining to the respective states, in conformity to the conditions that had been agreed upon by the contracting parties. Don Felix D'Azara happened to be one of those selected by the court of Madrid, and he was promoted on this occasion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel of engineers, Sept. 11, 1780.

In consequence of these arrangements, the subject of this memoir in 1781 embarked at Lisbon, and set sail for America on board a Portuguese vessel, Spain being at that period at war with England. Previously to this he had been attached to the marine service, and while at sea, learned that he was appointed captain of a frigate; for the king had thought proper that all the commissioners should appertain to the naval service.

The Spanish engineers soon terminated their labours; but as the Portuguese, by the strict execution of the treaty, would have been obliged to abandon the country which they had got possession of, they not only endeavoured to defer the conclusion of their operations, but also to elude the articles of agreement.

On this occasion they were but too well assisted, either by the indolence or culpable connivance of the Spanish governors. Thus Don Felix, at that precise period of life when activity and ambition are most prevalent, found himself detained in a distant portion of the world, under the vain pretext of terminating an affair which seemed resolved, by one of the contracting parties, to render interminable. It was then he first conceived the notion of constructing a map of the interior of this immense country, of which the frontiers only had hitherto been completed. He took upon himself all the expenses, the difficulties, the risks and the perils, which such a grand and hazardous enterprise necessarily subjected him to. From the viceroys, to whose orders he was obliged to conform, he neither found nor expected any assistance; on the contrary, he had reason to fear opposition on their part, and was even obliged to execute some of his projects unknown to them.

It may be here necessary to observe, that in consequence of the impediments already alluded to, the geography of this part of the globe had always been studiously concealed. For what little was

known, the world was indebted to the zeal of the French geographers, and the materials furnished by the Jesuits. The celebrated D'Anville in 1721, had composed a chart of Paraguay, comprehending the government of Buenos Ayres, which he afterwards re-touched in 1765 and 1779. That of Bellin, published in 1756 in the History of Paraguay, by Pere Charlevoix, was still more correct; for he had procured a variety of authentic materials from the Jesuits. These, together with Don Juan de Lacruz, were the precursors of M. D'Azara, who spent no less than thirteen years in completing his scheme; and had it not been for his rank and employments, together with the zeal of the officers under him, it could never have been accomplished. In those immense deserts, intersected by ruins, by lakes, and by forests, and almost entirely inhabited by savage and ferocious nations, it proved an undertaking of no common difficulty, labour, and fatigue, to execute those delicate operations which were necessary to a work of this kind.

At the commencement of his labours, colonel D'Azara provided himself with glass toys, ribands, knives, and trinkets, which he distributed in a liberal manner, in order to obtain the friendship of the savages. The whole of his own baggage consisted of some linen, together with a little coffee and salt; while tobacco, and the herb of Paraguay, were provided for those who accompanied him. These indeed, had nothing except what they carried about them; but they always procured for themselves a great number of horses; sometimes to the amount of twelve for each individual, not for the purposes of carrying their baggage, for that, as has been already hinted, was trifling; but because they were in great plenty, easily taken care of, and but little capable of undergoing fatigue.

The travellers were also accompanied by large dogs. It was customary with them to rise an hour before day to prepare breakfast; after this repast, the servants were detached to collect the horses, which were scattered in the neighbourhood, some of them two or three miles off. Having mounted, they set off two hours after sun-rise, and as there was no track, a guide, well acquainted with the country, constantly preceded them at the distance of three hundred paces; and he was always alone, that his mind might not be distracted by conversation.

conversation. After him followed the spare horses, and then the troop; the whole continuing to journey in this manner, without stopping, until two hours before sun-set.

It was then that the vicinity of some marsh or rivulet was selected, for the purpose of halting during the night. Persons were detached on all sides, some to procure wood for the purpose of burning, and others to seize on the wild cows, or such tame ones as appertained to any of the neighbouring habitations: if these were not to be procured in this manner, a herd provided before-hand followed in the rear. In some parts, wild animals were found in sufficient plenty to feed the whole body. Provided none of these could be found, it was customary to carry along with them cow's flesh, cut into thin long pieces, which had been dried in the sun. These were roasted on wooden spits, according to the custom of the country; and as bread was not used by the inhabitants, jerked beef constituted the sole aliment of our travellers.

Previously to encamping, it was always customary to take certain precautions against the vipers, which are very numerous. For this purpose, the horses were walked about in those places where it was proposed to spend the evening, with a view of either killing or displacing the reptiles, which at times occasioned the death of some of the former animals. When the period of repose had arrived, each individual provided himself with a piece of cow's flesh, and laid himself down on the earth; for M. d'Azara was the only one who had a hammock, which was either suspended to pieces of wood prepared for the purpose, or a tree. During the night, each one had his horse by his side, in case of an attack from wild beasts, the vicinity of which was always announced by the dogs.

In those countries where the savages were objects of dread, different precautions were taken; for M. d'Azara, on such occasions, never travelled but during the night, and was always preceded and accompanied by armed men; yet notwithstanding his utmost endeavours, he was attacked several times, and lost some of his followers.

It was in this manner that the subject of this memoir subjected himself to dangers and fatigues with a view of obtaining information; and his journeys, his

astronomical observations, his geographical remarks, together with his investigations in natural history, his correspondence, and his military duties, served to occupy the whole of his time. After having studied the climate, and drawn a plan of the country, he was desirous of becoming acquainted with the quadrupeds and birds. To attain this species of knowledge, he made war upon these animals; and as it was difficult to preserve them with all their original lustre and brilliancy, care was taken to draw up a description of each the moment he obtained possession of it. On this occasion, no assistance whatsoever was derived from books, until the colonel at length obtained a translation of Buffon, by Don Joseph Clavijo y Faxardo: after this, he had an opportunity either to verify or disprove the facts asserted by this celebrated Frenchman, to whom a number of species familiar to our traveller, were totally unknown. Indeed, it is evident that he has enriched natural history with a multitude of new discoveries. He had conceived an idea, that many of Buffon's descriptions were imaginary, and that in respect to some of the birds he had been grossly imposed upon, by means of feathers surreptitiously stuck into the different animals.

At length Don Felix wrote to Spain, and stated that he had fulfilled his commission, and wished to return to Europe; but without effect. What added greatly to his chagrin, was the repeated persecutions endured by him on the part of several of the Spanish governors, who took umbrage at his scientific labours, and conceived almost ridiculous jealousy of his attainments! At last, however, he obtained leave to return home, and accordingly sailed for Spain in 1801. On his arrival, he immediately published his history of birds and quadrupeds, the only portion of his studies that he dared to present to the public without the consent of his court. This was dedicated by him to his brother Don Nicholas, who was at that time ambassador from Spain to the court of France.

He himself soon after repaired to Paris to visit him, but they did not continue long together, for this fraternal intimacy was dissolved by the rude hand of death, on the 23d of January, 1803, on which day his Excellency expired in his brother's arms. The king, on this, immediately sent for him home, and conferred upon him an honourable appointment,

as "Miembro de la junta de fortificaciones y de fensa de ambos Indias;" and he still remains in tranquillity in Spain.

One peculiarity respecting this officer, who had attained the rank of brigadier of the Spanish armies, still remains to be noticed. Early in life he was advised by a physician of Madrid to abstain from bread, which was thought to produce indigestion, and consequently disease. Both instantly disappeared on altering his regimen; and from that moment other aliments seemed to be more agreeable to him than before. He ever after lived on flesh, fish, and vegetables, and was accustomed to observe, that the Indians, who were unacquainted with bread, attained greater ages than any others. Linguet, who wrote a treatise to prove that all our disorders, whether physical, political, or moral, proceeded from the cultivation of corn in Europe, and the use of bread as an aliment, would have been well pleased to have acquired a knowledge of this extraordinary fact!

"*Mémoires de M. Le Baron de Besenval, Lieutenant General des Armées du Roi, &c.*"—Memoirs of the Baron de Besenval, Lieutenant-General of the Royal Armies under Louis XV. and XVI. Grand Cross of the Order of St. Louis, Governor of Haguenau, Commandant of the Provinces of the Interior, Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment of Swiss Guards, &c. 4 vols. 8vo. printed at Paris, and imported by Mr. De Bosse, Nassau-street, Soho.

The three former volumes of this work were published many years since, and are not in our possession.

The fourth volume of the Memoirs of the Baron de Besenval contains his own works, consisting of literary miscellanies and poetry. In the course of the campaign of 1757, several general officers formed themselves into a kind of literary academy at Drevenich, and we are here presented with the contributions of the author.

The first article is entitled the "Spleen," a malady to which the writer, if we may credit his letter to the younger Crebillon, was a stranger to. "When I composed that little work, I never meant to treat of my own case," says he, "for, in fact, this never was my case. I was never subject to chagrin; a certain gaiety of character, some wit, and a body calculated for every species of toil, such was my condition at twenty years of age, when I was seized with the whim of de-

monstrating that misfortunes are inseparable from every possible situation!"

The "Spleen," consists of a dialogue between a stranger and the author, in the garden of the Tuilleries. The unknown person, who took delight in the dark alleys, and was shy of looking at or conversing with any one, is prevailed upon to tell his history. He was destined by his family to be an ecclesiastic; but he soon abandons the house of his uncle, a distinguished prelate, with an utter disgust to the mitre, and obtains a lieutenancy in the army. He soon discovers, however, that those who command others are themselves little better than slaves; "and disgusted with every thing around me," adds he, "I began to recollect with regret the quiet life I had once led. I loved my profession however, yet I was subjected to superiors entirely destitute of talents, who blamed me often for their own faults, and not unfrequently obliged me to support their ill humour. My brother officers also became jealous of me on account of my thinking differently from them, and were pleased to ridicule my habits of application. With one of these I fought and was wounded, but even this was deemed by me less disastrous than if I had killed my adversary, and been obliged to seek an asylum in a foreign land against the rigour of the laws." On his recovery our adventurer fell in love, and even neglected his duty in consequence of his attachment to a young lady of great vivacity, who pretended to entertain a particular attachment to him; but he soon overheard a conversation in which the object of his affections turns him into ridicule, and is completely cured! Meanwhile his two elder brothers die of the small-pox, and his father transmits him an account of this event in a letter full of attachment and paternal solicitude. On his return home, instead of being treated with a certain degree of rigour as heretofore, he is now considered as the hope of the family, and being an only son, his father insists on his being married. He accordingly becomes the husband of a former General's daughter, whose fortune soon frees the family estate from embarrassments, and enables him to live in a certain degree of splendour, very pleasing to a young man fond of gaiety. He now obtains a regiment, and takes leave of his wife, of whom he was never very fond, in order to repair to head quarters. On his arrival

rival, he finds discipline neglected, and every thing wrong; a reform immediately takes place, on which his officers become discontented, the Minister at War declares himself his enemy, and he discovers, to his cost, that of all despots ministerial despotism is the greatest!

To divert himself, he now forms a connexion, and that too with another man's wife! and in the mean time his own enters into all the gaiety of the capital, and takes a gallant. On this he separates from her and lives by himself, in order to enjoy all the comforts of celibacy. But here again he is unhappy; for he is troubled with the recital of other peoples' misfortunes, exposed to a thousand petty jealousies, and experiences ingratitude from almost everyone.

The stranger, disgusted with the capital, now rejoins his regiment, and enters on a campaign in Germany. A favourable occasion presents itself; he distinguishes himself and contributes greatly to the gaining of a battle; but in the moment of victory he receives a wound, is carried off the field, and on his recovery finds that his bosom friend, thinking he was dead, had arrogated to himself all the merit, and obtained the rank of a General from court. In addition to this, he learns at the same time, that Madame de Rennon, to whom he was so dearly attached, has withdrawn from the world and retired to a convent. On this he is seized with a fit of devotion, sends for a priest, and becomes very religious; but on his recovery, he relapses into his former habits of life.

Having resigned his commission in disgust, on his return home he beholds his wife on her death-bed; and soon after this, he marries his son to a young woman more distinguished for wealth than any other qualification. She and her relations at first produce a coolness in the family, which soon leads to a lawsuit: on this our splenetic friend enters into a second marriage; but here is again disappointed, for his new wife's whole fortune is swept away in the course of a single day, by the failure of a commercial house, and she herself falls a prey to affliction.

He now flies to books for consolation, but here again he is disappointed. "I soon became disgusted with history, on perceiving the truth of some of the most interesting incidents appertaining to it questioned, and even overturned, by the critics. On this, I substitute natural philosophy in its stead;

I behold all the curious phenomena; but on discovering that I was now making myself master of facts alone, without learning the principles on which they were founded, this also was abandoned. Natural history presented me with nothing more than a mere nomenclature. Metaphysics occupied but little of my attention, as I was soon bewildered in the obscure consequences arising out of a vague hypothesis. Geometry, although it satisfied my mind for the time, yet absorbed my faculties too much; morals, by developing the human heart, reproduced but too lively an image of the cause of my afflictions: and, in short, I did not find that consolation which I looked for in study. I recurred therefore to other objects of amusement. I purchased dogs, pictures, and china; in short, I acquired all those agreeable but useless and ridiculous things which constitute the sole merit of half the world. Yet here again I proved unfortunate, for I broke my leg while hunting, on which my pack of hounds became useless; and I immediately renounced shooting, in consequence of putting out the eyes of one of my gamekeepers, who happened to be concealed from my sight in a neighbouring copse, while I was levelling at a partridge!

"On this I attached all my happiness to the enjoyment of those consolations that still remained; but the amateurs had by this time found out that my collection of originals were all copies except one, which was spoiled in cleaning; while the whole of my porcelain was destroyed in a single night, by their proving too heavy for the wall of the saloon in which they were displayed.

"Perceiving now that I myself was not born to be happy, I determined at least to make others so. I fled the society of mankind; but seeing the many vexatious prosecutions to which the unhappy peasantry were subjected by those imposts produced by the luxury of individuals rather than the necessities of the state, I determined to protect and to solace them. I accordingly addressed myself to those hard-hearted and indolent despots, who, in consequence of the accumulated misfortunes of a too extensive society, have been entrusted with an unlimited degree of authority. But the intendants attempted to demonstrate the necessity of that cruel law, inseparable, according to them, from all order—the sacrifice of the interest of individuals to the general good. Although forced to yield

yield to their paradoxical positions, I was still able to follow the rules dictated to me by humanity; I accordingly paid the imposts levied on my own peasantry, reserving the right of reimbursing myself during a fruitful harvest. General gratitude was the consequence in the spring; but this was followed by general murmurs among my vassals in the autumn, when I demanded re-payment. In short, one of the peasants whom I had reprehended on account of his bad conduct, cut down two favourite cherry-trees in my orchard, and then abandoned his habitation.

"To complete my sorrows, I fell in love once more; and that too with Catherine, the daughter of my gardener: but I soon discovered that she was attached to Thomas, the son of a neighbouring farmer; in short, I found that while old age blunts our senses in respect to pleasures, it leaves us all our sensibility in regard to chagrin. With a view of being just, I united the two lovers; I portioned the maiden, and let some fruitful lands to her young spouse at an easy rate. A few weeks after, however, happening to pass by their cottage, I was attracted by the screams of Catherine, and on entering immediately seized on her husband, who was beating her most unmercifully. 'There is no state,' exclaimed I, 'which does not exhibit a series of miseries, although they present themselves under different forms. In the metropolis, Catherine would have shed tears in consequence of the perfidy of her husband, here she is made to cry out from the excesses of his brutality; and since the society of men is everywhere the same, I am determined to fly from it for ever.' Of all places Paris appeared to me to be the best calculated for this purpose. The immense number of people who inhabit this city, and the continual succession of occupations, afford full liberty of being unknown and in seclusion, without experiencing the horrors of solitude. During the two years I have resided here, you are the very first man to whom I have spoken!"

The next article consists of political and military speculations. The author, instead of being astonished at the small number of great captains, is surprised that so many should have existed, seeing that such extraordinary requisites are demanded in the composition of a General.

"In respect to states, they are elevated and supported by the virtue of the citizens, and by this virtue I understand simplicity of manners and patriotism,

But no sooner do states refine than men begin to calculate; and it is soon discovered that the honour produced by the exercise of these virtues, is little better than a chimera! From the moment that every citizen thinks only of himself, the whole social body necessarily languishes: the machine indeed will operate sometime longer by its own proper movement, but at the least shock disorganization is likely to ensue."

After this the Baron draws a lively picture of France, such as it was at least anterior to the revolution. He at the same time observes, that although the English constitute the nation who have given the severest blows to France, yet their manners are no more chaste, nor their writings less licentious, than those of the French: it is the audacity of their pens which seems to have emboldened our French authors. As to their morals too, they seem to push debauchery to a greater length; but the firmness of character peculiar to this people, preserves it from effeminacy and corruption, which are the inevitable rocks of French frivolity. The English, who are profound calculators, feel the necessity of a submission to those laws which constitute the preservation of society, while the French, ignorant and frivolous, must fear in order not to violate them. A little after this, he exclaims as follows: "Non, je le repète, il n'y a qu'un miracle qui puisse sauver la France!"

Our author next recurs to the history of France; and observes, that "Cardinal Richlieu finding that country torn to pieces by civil wars, which were continually fomented by the too powerful nobility, he, in conformity to his nature, which was harsh and cruel, cut off the heads of many of them. Knowing however, that this at best was but a temporary remedy, he attracted the grandees to court by means of honourable and advantageous employments, which rendered them dependant on the king. During the minority of Louis XIV. the civil wars were renewed, and no sooner did this monarch appease them, than he followed the route which the cardinal had chalked out.

"But under the reign of Louis XV. the system ought to have been changed; for these same nobles, being convinced that they had no other existence than that which the favour of their master bestowed, instead of courageous barons, became vile and servile courtiers. Nay, they did not stop there; for they made themselves

themselves the creatures of the ministers, and indeed of every man in place who could contribute to their fortune. As they commenced by embracing the profession of arms, they soon communicated to the officers under them the corruption of their own hearts, the same supineness of character, and an equal want of application."

The next article we shall notice consists of detached thoughts. The first of these is as old as the times of the Greek republics.

1. "The laws are like cobwebs: the small fish are taken in the meshes, but the great ones break through."

2. "The success of Racine only serves to prove to what a degree the great Corneille was imitable."

3. "Hope deceives us, for it prevents enjoyment."

4. "The magic of style, occasions all the success of our modern dramas."

5. "Happiness is a term at once lofty and vain, it is a daring invasion of the rights of Heaven."

6. "Do you wish to escape from folly? then act so as if you were dealing with a creditor who makes you pay dearly for the delay he grants."

7. "The degree of happiness ought to be measured by the degree of sensibility."

8. "Those who have loved the ladies with ardour, can scarcely love any thing else."

9. "In such a case nothing can replace their favours; not even those of fortune. Harlequin become a king, regrets his maccaroons; Cincinnatus his plough."

10. "Many sentences and maxims have succeeded in consequence of a certain enigmatical tone, which solaces the petty vanity of the reader, in consequence of the satisfaction arising from the hope of penetrating the meaning. Thus Rochefoucault tells us, that 'gravity is a mystery of the body, invented for the purpose of concealing the defects of the mind.' M. de Fontenelle also gives us the following: 'All religions would be destroyed, provided those who professed them were obliged to love one another.'

11. "A man without an object on whom he sets his affections, and at the same time destitute of friends, exactly resembles an apartment with figures wrought in tapestry."

12. "All on earth is but shadow: beyond it every thing is substance."

13. "Nothing is more eloquent than the silence of the tombs."

14. "Women are always combating

love, and would be exceedingly sorry not to have it to combat."

On the whole, the Baron de Besenval may be considered as an agreeable writer; and several parts of his works abound with traits both of genius and humanity.

"*Essai Historique sur Henri Saint John, &c.*"—An Historical Essay relative to Henry St. John, Viscount Bellingbroke. Imported by J. De Boffe, French bookseller, Nassau-street, Soho.

In a former article we gave an account of the lettres, historiques, politiques, philosophiques, &c. of this celebrated man. (See Appendix to Monthly Magazine for January, 1810.) We seize the present opportunity to complete our labours, by means of a Life of one of the most extraordinary men that England has ever produced.

The family of St. John, or more properly speaking St. Jean, was of great antiquity in the duchy of Normandy. One of its members occupied an employment of trust and consequence in the army of the Conqueror, and distinguished himself greatly during the battle of Hastings, which was fought on the 14th of October, 1066, and in consequence of the events of that day, William I. was placed on the throne of England. Lands were bestowed by the victor on all his followers; and St. John received such a portion, as is supposed, to have enabled him to make good his pretensions to the heiress of the family of Port, which was one of the most affluent, we are told, then existing in England. Their descendants formed still more illustrious alliances; for the mother of one of them was also that of Henry VII., who claimed the crown in virtue of his mother, Marguerite de Beaufort, daughter of John de Somerset, of the house of Lancaster. This princess was daughter, by a second marriage, of another Margaret, who in consequence of the former one, had two sons, who formed two separate branches, the St. Johns of Bletsoe, and Tregoz.

Walter St. John, the grandfather of the viscount, and descended from the latter of these, sat as knight of the shire for the county of Wilts, during the reigns of Charles II., James II., and William III. He died at Battersea, near London, July 3, 1703, at the age of eighty-seven, and was a man of considerable talents. His son Henry, who also possessed the reputation of abilities, espoused lady Mary, daughter of Robert Rich earl of Warwick. They had several

several children, the eldest of whom and the subject of the present memoir, was born* 1672, and called Henry, after his father. Young St. John was at first educated under the eyes of his parents, who afterwards sent him to Eton and Oxford, in succession. He distinguished himself while there, we are told, by great sagacity in point of understanding, as well as by the astonishing facility with which he learned every thing. His memory was prodigious.

On his entrance into the world, he rendered himself remarkable by his handsome person, a certain noble and graceful aspect, an extraordinary fund of knowledge, together with an agreeable mixture of wit and learning. He also displayed an intimate acquaintance with the best Greek and Roman authors, and could quote them in such a manner as not to savour of pedantry. Yet notwithstanding all these advantages, his family was greatly alarmed by his ardent temperament and love of the fair sex.

But his attachment to his pleasures never stifled in him the love of literature, and a certain passion for public affairs. In the midst of his follies, he was ever ready to exclaim with Horace:

*Solve senes centem, mature, sanus equum re
Pecchet ad extremum ridendus, et ilia ducat.*

Epi. i. v. 8 and 9.

In the years 1698 and 1699, Mr. St. John travelled on the Continent, with the view of completing his education; and in the course of his journey visited both France and Italy. During his youth, he formed an acquaintance with all the wits of his time, particularly Dryden; and we are assured that he not only esteemed this great poet, but when William III. deprived him of his pension, he assisted him with his purse and credit, and never ceased to give him the most convincing proofs of his attachment. Pope, Swift, and other celebrated men of letters, were afterwards numbered among his friends.

In the beginning of the year 1700, the relations of Mr. St. John prevailed on him to marry Miss Frances Winchescomb, a rich heiress, and he was nearly at the same time nominated representative for Wotton Bassett, in Wiltshire, in which quality he sat during the fifth parliament of William III. At this pe-

* “ On ignore même en Angleterre, la date précise de la naissance du Lord Bolingbroke.”

riod of his life he condemned the treaty for the partition of the Spanish monarchy.

On the accession of queen Anne, the subject of this memoir began to distinguish himself by his eloquence. Nature had conferred on him many of the properties of a great orator, and as the queen was sensible of his parts she courted his attachment. As a proof of the high degree of favour then enjoyed by him, he was one of the persons of quality selected soon after by her majesty, to accompany her to Bath.

He now joined that party which was so well known by the appellation of the *Tories*, the principles of which, if not correspondent to his character, were at least favourable to his views; and accordingly, although both his father and grandfather had been Whigs, he acted in direct opposition to their system of government. In 1704 he was nominated a member of the administration, and became intimately connected with the Duke of Marlborough, the first General of his age, who was then at the head of the British armies.

“ Descended from a noble family, but without being illustrious, and at the same time destitute of fortune, the latter had now attained the highest eminence which an individual could aspire to. A friendship between him and St. John had been originally formed at the little court of Anne, while princess of Denmark, and it is not at all unlikely that the credit of Churchill and his wife, contributed greatly to make him a minister. It may be said of Marlborough that he had become a great warrior from instinct alone, for he had never either studied his art, or read any of the celebrated treatises on it. Most assuredly he had never perused Xenophon, and perhaps never looked into the narrative of any modern war; but during his youth, he had served under Turenne, and was distinguished by his notice.”

On the disgrace of this great man, Bolingbroke, if he did not take part against his friend, at least sided with the court, and became secretary of state for foreign affairs during the administration of the celebrated Harley, earl of Oxford. On this occasion, he had not only the management of continental business, and of all the negociations for peace, but also of the House of Commons, of which his oratory, and still more his influence, had rendered him the oracle. He also was enabled by means

means of Mrs. Mastam, to keep up his intercourse, and increase his favour with the queen; but a mutual jealousy already subsisted between him and the First Lord of the Treasury, which it was never in the power of Dr. Swift, the common friend of both, to eradicate; although, perhaps, he might tend to moderate it.

A pacification was at this period the grand object of the new administration, and for that purpose they immediately convoked a parliament more devoted to them, and less attached to the Whigs, than the preceding one. "St. John now publicly declared, that the glory of taking cities, and gaining battles, ought to be measured by the degree of utility resulting from these splendid achievements, which at one and the same time might reflect honour on the arms, and shame on the councils, of a nation; that the wisdom of a government consists in regulating its projects by its interests and its strength, and in proportioning the means of execution to the object which it proposes, and the vigour it is to display. He declared that England had lost sight of those rules, and that motives of selfishness and ambition had seduced the grand part of the alliance to depart from the principles which had been agreed upon. He added, that all ideas of conquering Spain ought to be renounced and relinquished, as General Stanhope had just declared, that the people were so attached to Philip V. and professed such a degree of aversion to the Archduke, that the country might be overrun 'until the day of judgment,' without being conquered. As Spain was the object of the war, and its subversion hopeless, it was therefore his opinion, that peace ought to be instantly thought of."

St. John perceiving that the new parliament was favourable to his views, sent over the Abbe Gaultier to Paris in 1711, and by means of his agency, and that of Mr. Prior, he carried on a correspondence with M. de Torcy, and signified to the French minister, that England would treat independently of, and without the concurrence, of Holland.

No sooner did the Dutch learn that the English had commenced a negociation for peace, than they themselves wished to renew the conferences for a treaty; but their ministers were repulsed, and obliged to solicit a participation in the diplomatic engagements of England.

Meanwhile the queen was so well

pleased with the conduct of her ministers, that Harley was created an earl, and nominated First Lord of the Treasury, in addition to his former office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. Although St. John had been overlooked on this occasion, yet he determined to press the business of peace, and accordingly sent Prior the poet, once more to the court of Versailles, with a memorial, in which he laid down the principles on which it could alone be obtained. That gentleman accordingly repaired to Fontainebleau at the latter end of July 1711, and having ascertained that Louis XIV. had received full powers from his grandson, Philip V. returned immediately with Monsieur Mesnager, to whom the English Secretary for Foreign Affairs observed: "We desire peace, and France stands in need of it; to obtain this, all intrigue and finesse must be banished. England will not either resume or renew the insupportable pretensions maintained by the Dutch at the former conferences, but she expects a reasonable compensation for herself on account of her expences, and equitable advantages for her allies; in fine, such terms as may be required for their own security, and such indeed as the present situation of affairs entitle them to."

A provisional negociation was the consequence; and preliminaries of peace between England and France were signed soon after, on the part of St. John and the Earl of Dartmouth on one side, and the French Envoy on the other. Next day Mesnager was introduced to the queen, who received him in a private manner at Windsor.

On the 30th of November, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs notified to the different ministers at the court of London, that negotiations for peace were about to take place at Utrecht; and notwithstanding the violent opposition that ensued on the part of the Count de Gallassch, the Austrian minister, and the Baunde Bothmar, Envoy from the court of Hanover; nay, although the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, with all the Whigs, together with the States General, resolutely opposed the measure, yet Anne and her ministers, as is well known, succeeded in the project for a peace.

The services of St. John upon this occasion were not forgotten, and accordingly her majesty, on the 14th of July, 1712, was pleased to create him a peer of England, by the style and title

of Baron of Lydia Fregoz in the county of Wilts, and Viscount Bolingbroke. This reward was considered as his due, in consequence of the basis of a new political balance established by him in Europe, which subsisted during a period of about fourscore years; and notwithstanding the frequent wars that intervened, was never wholly changed until the late revolution.

Meanwhile, in consequence of a variety of intrigues, the Earl of Oxford, who is here accused of keeping up a double correspondence with the Pretender and the House of Hanover at the same time, was about to be disgraced, and his enemy Bolingbroke to be elevated to the highest dignities in the state, when Anne died. This princess, according to the editor, who obtained his information from the late Mrs. Mallet, was greatly beloved by Bolingbroke, who exclaimed in her presence: "That the unfortunate queen was a model of all the virtues; that the unhappy house of Stuart had never produced a better sovereign; and that no princess ever deserved so little to be cruelly betrayed, as was the case with her late majesty." It is here also stated that her majesty's constitution was radically sapped and ruined by the use of strong liquors. The editor is at some pains to insinuate that her majesty did not die a natural death: but for this suspicion there never was any solid foundation whatsoever.

On the accession of George I. Bolingbroke addressed a letter of congratulation to his Majesty, but instead of being treated the better for this mark of respect, his papers were sealed up, and he himself taught to expect the utmost severity of royal enmity. The subject of this memoir, on perceiving the storm, retired for awhile into the country; but on receiving secret intelligence from the Duke of Marlborough, that it was not in his power to protect him from the rage of the Whigs, who had determined to punish him as the author of the late pacification, he determined to fly. His lordship accordingly embarked privately at Dover on the 7th of April, carrying with him property to the amount of about 500,000 franks, which was intended to support him during his exile.

On his arrival at Paris, the Viscount waited on the English ambassador (the Earl of Stair,) and assured him that he did not intend to enter into any connexion whatsoever with the jacobites; and he wrote several letters to the same

purpose to General Stanhope, then Secretary of State. Soon after this, his lordship retired to St. Clair, in Dauphiné; and during his residence there, was accused, together with the Earl of Oxford, of high treason. The latter was accordingly sent to the Tower; while against the former, a bill of attainder was carried.

The Tories in England, greatly displeased at the conduct of the Whigs, who, in their turn, considered them all as *suspected*, now sent an agent to the Continent, who had an interview with the Pretender at Commerci, whence he repaired to St. Clair, with a letter signed James III. containing an invitation to Bolingbroke to assist at his councils. This once more awakened the ambition of the viscount, who set out for Commerci, although in a bad state of health, and thus threw an air of duplicity over his character, from which, notwithstanding his splendid talents, it could never after entirely recover.

"He was convinced," we are told, "soon after his first interview, that the prince just alluded to, had neither plans nor views, and that the Tories themselves did not seem to act with more sagacity. He also perceived too, that although the Pretender lived in daily expectation of repairing either to England or Scotland, yet efficacious means had not as yet been taken for the countenance and support of France, without the aid of which, in respect both to arms and money, all his future enterprises must prove problematical."

Bolingbroke, on being appointed minister, immediately repaired to Paris, to solicit succours of all kinds from Louis XIV. His embassy, however, did not prove completely successful; for although something was obtained, yet the aged monarch was hastening fast towards the conclusion of his career, and had become not only indisposed to a new war with France, but almost incapable of business. A little money, some arms, and one or two vessels fitted out by the merchants, constituted all the supplies he could obtain in the name of "King James."

The regency of the Duke of Orleans, was still less favourable to the affairs of the exiles; and the keen and discerning eye of Bolingbroke had already anticipated the disasters which soon after occurred to his party, both in England and Scotland.

Bolingbroke did not accompany the prince

prince in his ill-concerted expedition to Scotland, having remained at Paris for the purpose of obtaining succours from Spain; but on the return of this personage, he was dismissed from a service which was not very pleasing to him; "for he conceived but a low opinion both of the talents and character of his royal highness. For example, it was never possible to obtain a categorical answer on the article of religion, supposing he ever ascended the throne of Great Britain; and although that was a principal article with the English, this prince, therefore, was at bottom no better than a bigot, as his faith was founded on the fear of the devil and of hell, and not on the love of virtue, the horror of vice, the knowledge of the reciprocal duties of men living in society and, in short, on the respect due to the supreme Being."

It is but justice to Bolingbroke to add, that the Duke of Berwick who was an eye-witness of his conduct, allows that he acted with great honour and propriety; and remarks, with great force and efficacy, on the jealousies of the Earl of Mar and the Duke of Ormond, who envied his superior talents and credit. "One must be entirely destitute of good sense," says this celebrated general, "not to know that King James committed a most enormous fault, in dismissing the sole Englishman capable of managing his affairs, and that too, at a time when he stood in the greatest need of his services."

From this moment, Bolingbroke most sincerely abjured not only the services, but also the cause, of the Pretender: "I then took a resolution," says he, "to make my peace with King George, and to employ all experience, which I had unfortunately acquired out of my native country, for the purpose of undeceiving my friends, and thus contributing to the re-establishment of union and tranquillity."

Soon after this, some explanations took place between Lord Stair, the English minister at the French court, and the subject of this biographical memoir, by means of a common friend; and it appears evident that it was the decided opinion of the former, that the latter should be restored to his country. During this negociation, in the course of which the Ex-secretary refused to disclose any intelligence that might affect his credit or wound his honour, the Earl of Oxford, who had been committed so long to the Tower, was brought before

the House of Peers and acquitted, in consequence of a dispute with the Commons.

Notwithstanding this, his colleague still remained in a foreign land. The urbanity and gaiety of the French nation appeared to be very suitable to his disposition; he was accustomed to deem himself the "least unfortunate of exiles;" he possessed a sufficiency of money to live in a handsome style, and his company was eagerly solicited by all the men of talents in France. In 1717, he formed an acquaintance with the Marchioness de Villette, whose maiden name was Maria Claire Deschamps de Marcilly, and who had been married to the Marquis de Villette Mursay, a relation of Madame de Maintenon. She was then a widow with several children, had been educated at St. Cyr, and lived in the faubourg Saint-Germain. This lady was about fifty-two years of age, possessed a very considerable fortune, and at the same time had a number of law-suits. "Without being handsome, she knew how to please; she possessed wit, and might be said to have conversed with great effect, provided she had spoken but a little less." Bolingbroke soon felt himself in love with her; and as she was pleased with him, a close and intimate friendship immediately commenced, which was however frequently interrupted and embittered by his jealousy. Imagining one day, at dinner, that she had a liking for Mr. Macdonald, first esquire to the Pretender, and a very handsome man, he overturned the table in a fury, and broke all the glasses. The Abbé Alari, who was a witness to this scene, was accustomed to observe, in addition: "that in 1715, Madame de Villette had entrusted him to carry to the Count de Boulainvilliers, who pined himself on drawing horoscopes, the date of her birth, and a variety of other particulars, for his opinion." The answer was: "that the lady was affected by a great number of passions; that she would experience one stronger than all the rest at the age of fifty-two, and at length die in a foreign country."

"All this prophecy," adds the editor, "was afterwards fully realized, and yet no reliance whatsoever ought to be placed on the skill of the fortune teller, who was completely deceived in respect to the predictions made by him in respect to himself."

At length, after a variety of lapses, lord Bolingbroke concentrated his passion for the whole sex in Madame de Villette

Villette alone; and his own lady, who had turned devotee, having died in November, 1718, the public conduct of the two lovers from that moment became less embarrassing. He first accompanied this lady to her estate at Marcilly, near Nogent *sur Seine*, and afterwards conducted her to the waters of Aix-la-Chapelle, where it was generally believed that they were married in May, 1720. It was also asserted, that Madame de Villette at the same time abjured the catholic religion: but the Abbe Alari, and all those intimate in the family, were fully persuaded that no abjuration had taken place, and that no marriage had ever been completed: it was convenient however to keep up appearances, although they never avowed their union until the month of July, 1722.

"The viscount loved the country, and Marcilly would have proved a most agreeable residence; yet in 1719, he purchased the little estate of *la Source*, near Orleans, and converted it into an enchanting abode. There he spent many happy days in the arms of philosophy, the muses, and voluptuousness, assigning to his pleasures that portion of time which he had never refused them, reserving for study the hours formerly devoted to business; and re-uniting around him a society selected from men of letters, men of the world, and the most amiable of the other sex. Voltaire, who formed one of the party, declares he was enchanted with his visits: 'I have found,' said he, 'in this illustrious Englishman, all the erudition of his country, mingled with all the politeness of our own. I never heard any one pronounce our language with more energy and propriety. This man, who has been all his life engaged in pleasures and business, has nevertheless found means to learn, and to retain every thing. He is as well acquainted with the history of the Egyptians as of the English. He is equally familiar with Virgil and Milton, and he loves French, Italian, and English poetry; but he loves them differently, because he perfectly discerns the different genius of each.'

Meanwhile, the mind of viscount Bolingbroke was continually busied about the means of returning to his native country. The earl of Stanhope, one of his most bitter enemies, was now dead, (1721); but sir Robert Walpole was still in credit; the earl of Sunderland, and the duke of Marlborough, who were his friends, did not long survive;

while the duchess Dowager, who professed a particular esteem for the man "who alone was worthy to praise her husband," no longer enjoyed any credit.

As means were about to be recurred to in London for repealing the bill of attainder, Madame de Villette was sent thither, and under the name of lady Bolingbroke acted in concert with lord Harcourt. All their solicitations however would have proved ineffectual, but for the patronage of the duchess of Kendall, who is said to have sold his lordship's pardon at an enormous price! Be this as it may, he arrived at Calais on the 11th of May, 1723, four days after it had passed the great seal: but on learning that it extended only to his life, and that he was deprived of the peerage and his estates, he immediately repaired to Aix-la-Chapelle.

In 1725, lord Bolingbroke at length re-visited his native country; and an act of parliament was soon after passed for the purpose of restoring his property to him; but the enmity, and it has been added, the jealousy of Walpole, prevented the restoration of his dignities. The conduct of the minister on this occasion excited the bitterest animosity on the part of Bolingbroke, who soon became one of the most violent, as well as most formidable, of his political foes. As his father was still alive, and in possession of the principal estates, the viscount resolved to settle at "Dawley," near Uxbridge, and there resigned himself to the enjoyment of country amusements, and the company of the learned, such as Swift and Pope. He also connected himself openly with the Opposition, and published many able letters in the Craftsman, besides a variety of pamphlets, which occasioned a great sensation. On the demise of George I. it was supposed that a change in the administration would have taken place; but Walpole was enabled to obtain a greater share of credit under that than the preceding reign. The viscount, who was not discouraged by this unexpected circumstance, immediately formed a strict union with William Pulteney, afterwards earl of Bath, and then at the head of a most powerful party.

Notwithstanding this, in 1735 he returned to France, and as he had sold the estate of *la Source*, he now hired the castle of Chanteloup, which was afterwards embellished by the celebrated duke de Choiseul, while an exile like himself. Here, as usual, he resigned himself.

himself to study, to an intercourse with men of wit, and to good cheer.

His father having died in 1740, lord Bolingbroke received a considerable augmentation to his fortune; and in 1742, on the change of ministers, he returned a second time to England. He now obtained the confidence of the prince of Wales, father of the reigning monarch in our own time, to whom he addressed, and for whom indeed he is said to have written, one of the most celebrated of his works.

He spent the chief part of his time in Wiltshire,* and at Battersea, near London, where he had a library, equally valuable on account of the number and the rarity of the books contained there. "Bolingbroke, during the latter part of his life, was considered as an oracle, and regularly consulted as such by statesmen and men of letters. He was in full possession of glory, and was enjoying himself in the bosom of opulence and repose, when he became completely miserable from a single shock from the hand of blind Destiny. The marchioness de Villette, after languishing for several years, died on the 18th of March, 1750, and he regretted her during the short remainder of his own life, which was only twenty months continuance. Throughout the whole of that period, this philosopher never passed a single day without shedding tears. He himself was at length attacked by a slow and lingering malady, which put his constancy to the severest proofs. An ulcer in his face gave him great pain; but he supported his anguish with a stoicism, which had always constituted the basis of his principles. He died at Battersea, November 25, 1751, at the age of 79, and his fortune devolved on his nephew.

Immediately after the demise of the lady just alluded to, her relations commenced a process against lord Bolingbroke, which not only tended to deprive him of his property in France, but to throw discredit on a person who had been so long dear to him. The cause was heard, and the sentence pronounced proved unfavourable to the hopes and wishes of the subject of this memoir, whose life closed before he was enabled to take the proper means for obtaining a reversion of the judgment. But the marquis de Matignon, actuated by the impulse of that mutual regard which had

subsisted so long between them, immediately appealed to the parliament of Paris, and obtained a final decision at a period when his friend was no more, with a view of rescuing his character and fortune from unmerited censure and loss.

The character of Bolingbroke has afforded a fertile subject of discussion, both to his friends and his enemies. The earl of Orrery, on one hand has observed, "that he united in himself the wisdom of Socrates, the dignity and ease of Pliny, and the delicacy of Horace, both in his writings and conversation." He has been also praised by two great men, the earls of Chatham and Chesterfield; as well as by Swift, Pope, &c. On the other hand, Sheridan, Hervey, the bishop of Cloyne, with a multitude of others, have attacked his memory; and indeed it has been, for many years past, the fashion to condemn his principles without scruple, and without remorse. The French editor of his works, maintains that he was not an atheist. On the contrary, he asserts, on the credit of Mrs. Mallet, who died about fifteen years since, at the age of eighty, "that himself, Swift, and Pope, constituted a society of pure deists; and that although the second of these, being dean of St. Patrick's, was somewhat more reserved than the rest, yet he was fundamentally of the same way of thinking."

MISCELLANEOUS.

"*Lettres Inédites de Mirabeau.*"—Unpublished Letters of the late Count de Mirabeau: containing Memoirs, and Extracts of Memoirs, written in 1781, 1782, and 1783, during his Law-suits at Pontarlier and Provence; the whole, forming an Appendix to the Letters written from the Dungeon of Vincennes, from 1777 until 1780, inclusive. Published by J. F. Vitry, formerly employed in the foreign department. Published at Paris, and imported by M. De Bois, Nassau-street, 1810. 1 vol. 8vo.

The motto to this article is admirably adapted to the work, as it conveys the idea, "that most of those who declaim against the private vices of an illustrious man, prove rather that they envy his talents, than that they are incited by the public good.* The character of Mirabeau, however, will not bear investiga-

* "La plupart de ceux qui s'emportent avec fureur contre les vices domestiques d'un homme illustre, prouvent moins leur amour pour le bien public, que leur envie contre les talents; envie qui prend souvent, à leur yeux, le masque d'une vertu, mais qui n'est
tion,

* "Au chateau de Lydiard, dans la province de Wilts."

tion, even for a single moment; and whether it be from envy or from justice, certain it is, that all men seem to have agreed to praise his talents, and condemn his morals.

The editor tells us, that this volume will complete the works of his illustrious countryman. It contains the particulars of one of the most memorable, and indeed the most tumultuous, periods of his life; and has been snatched "from the dust of the law-offices, the maps to be found in the syndical chambers, and the parliamentary decrees. Here are to be found," it is added, "many portions of eloquence worthy of the days of antiquity; and Mirabeau, always great, will re-appear exactly the same as when he shone in the constituent assembly, to the astonishment of all Europe. Yes, such as he seemed at that most brilliant period, he will be here found in his famous Pleadings which I now restore; in his discussions equally luminous and profound; equally close and explanatory in that masculine logic, that inflexible courage, which could never be subdued; that comprehensive and sound reason, which never for a moment forsook him."

The extracts have been chiefly taken from seven volumes of Memoirs and Observations, which the author drew up with an incredible degree of rapidity, in the course of a process that ensued, after a detention of forty-two months. This work, therefore, occupies the biographical chasm between his liberation from the dungeon of Vincennes, and the conclusion of the year 1784.

The publication now before us contains:

1. The first of the memorials written by Mirabeau, during his detention in the prison of Pontarlier. This gives an account of his situation previously to his detention, and also of his flight to Holland, in company with madame de Mounier.

2. Several extracts from the second memorial.

3. The whole of the violent attack on the "Substitut du Procureur du Roi," which the connoisseurs, on its first appearance, termed "the Phillipie of the count de Mirabeau." Mirabeau himself appears to have been vain of this effort of genius; for he observes, "that if it does not exhibit a degree of elo-

quence hitherto unknown to our barbarous age, I am unacquainted with what constitutes this seductive and rare gift of Heaven."^{*} This may be very true, but it is not very modest!

4. Mirabeau's correspondence subsequently to his leaving Pontarlier, and on the epoch of his return to Provence with the marquis de Marignane, his father-in-law, and his wife.

5. His speech at Aix respecting his wife, of which he himself gives the following account: "I myself pleaded my own cause, and on this occasion omitted to insist on my rights as a husband. Accordingly, I only employed supplications. I painted the picture of madame de Mirabeau in the most lively as well as most pleasing colours. I demanded of her a return of her affections, in the name of that son whom we had both lost, and whom I regarded as our common mediator. I caused tears to flow on this occasion. It was then, as now said, 'had madame de Mirabeau but heard her husband, she would have rushed into his arms;' so great was the effect of my oration, and so much commended my acknowledged moderation."

6. A variety of remarkable fragments, extracted from the second, third, and fourth, volumes of Observations, at the end of the Pleadings.

7. Several extracts from Mirabeau's Memoir to the great Council; his opinion in 1784, respecting the indissolubility of marriage, and the essential distinction between a divorce and a separation.

In a letter dated at Bignon, July 28, 1781, this singular man expresses himself with the utmost confidence to a friend, respecting his intended re-union with his wife, and perhaps hints, or rather broadly avows, the object he had in view.

"I beg leave to communicate to you, and to you alone, that it is very possible I shall immediately set out for Provence to conclude that great and important affair which I have hitherto managed so well, and which will restore to me the possession of sixty thousand livres per annum of rent. A great progress has been already made; and women never retract, or at least never retract but with fools. These charming and timid creatures do not always advance so far as they themselves would wish; but, on the other hand, they never retreat, except when they are afraid of ingratitude.

"Adieu, my good friend; for it will be

* Lettre du recueil, p. 210.
recollected

recollected that it is to a handsome female I am now writing. A man is not born to argue before he becomes old and powerless. Nestor, with all my heart, when it is no longer possible to be Achilles, (at twenty years of age;) Diomede, (at thirty;) Ulysses, (at forty;) even then, but too much remains for the king of Pylos. Adieu, once more, my dear and good friend: I embrace your Julia, and if I have not a speedy answer, I shall immediately send you a courier."

In the succeeding epistle he observes, that he has been greatly blamed for the facility of his disposition; and while he owns his fault in this point of view, he quotes Voltaire, to prove that this quality is not altogether without its advantages:

"Qui n'a pas l'esprit de son âge,
De son âge a tous les malheurs."

While in Switzerland, the count transmitted an Elegy on the Death of a little Dog, of which we shall here transcribe the first eighteen lines:

*Elegie sur la mort de MIGNONNE, petite
ébienne de la Comtesse de ****

"Que sons vos doigts le luth gemisse !
Mères, que l'écho de ce bord
Des chants lugubres de la mort,
Dans le profonde nuit, longuement relentisse.
J'aimois Mignonne, et Mignonne n'est
plus.
Jel'aime encore : au dieu desrives sombres
J'adresse des vœux superflus ;
Mes tristes vœux ne sont point entendus.
Elle habite ajamais le domaine desombres.
Je le sais trop ; mes pleurs ne l'affranchiront
pas.
De cette loi prescrite à tout ce qui respire.
Lorsque naguère, en mon joyeux désir,
Je célébrois Mignonne et ses appas,
Qui m'auroit dit que bien tôt sur ma lyre,
Je laument erois sou tr·pas?"

Here follows the epitaph, which consists of no more than four lines :

"Avec Myrthé ne pleurez plus mon sort ;
Songez plutôt à me porter envie ;
C'est dans ses bras que j'ai perdu la vie ;
Qui ne voudroit expinerde ma mort ?"

Soon after this, in another letter, after alluding to a certain female well known to him and his correspondent, he transcribes the following Latin distich, which he begs may not be translated to the fair lady in question, if he values his eye-sight :

"Aspide quid pejus? Tigris; quid Tigride?
Dæmon;
Demone qui? mulier; quid muliere?
nihil."

While at Bignon, Mirabeau transmitted a copy of his celebrated work on "Lettres de Cachet," and also his "Eloge Historique de M. Turgot," which he was obliged to print in a foreign country. He also communicates the intelligence that he had received from his brother, who was aide major-general of his division, and "one of the masters of the ceremony," on that occasion, "an account of the surrender of the army under Lord Cornwallis." "This is a sad lot," adds he, "for a brave man to see himself reduced to such an humiliating situation, solely through the fault of the English cabinet."

In 1783, the count de Mirabeau had an interview with the keeper of the Seals, when he doubtless displayed a remarkable instance of that courageous fortitude, in which he never was deficient at any period of his life. It was on this occasion that he anticipated, in some measure, his future daring spirit, at an epoch when France appeared equally desirous and worthy of freedom.

On the whole, this volume contains a curious specimen of the writings, and many authentic particulars, of the early life of M. de Mirabeau.

*"Histoire Universelle, à l'usage des
Cours publics, &c."*—Universal History, calculated for a public Course of Studies, by J. BRAND.

The first part contains a history of the primitive nations, viz. the Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Medes, the Phenicians, and the Persians. The second includes the history of the Macedonians, and the empires acquired or founded by them, from the earliest times of the monarchy until the domination of the Romans. The fourth, comprehends the history of Rome.

The author commences his labours with an account of ancient Italy, and traces the origin of the Romans from the earliest period of their annals, until the dissolution of their empire. A chronological table accompanies each part.

*"Supplement au Traité de Mécanique
Céleste, &c."*—Supplement to the Treatise on the Celestial Mechanism; presented to the Board of Longitude, August 17, 1808, 4to. 24 pages.

The celebrated author of the work in question, tells us, that it is his object in the present Supplement to perfect the theory of the planetary perturbations, which he presented in the second and sixth books of his "Traité de Mécanique Céleste." He has given the most simple

simple form possible to his reasonings, and on this occasion he considers the orbit of each planet as an ellipsis variable every instant. These are represented,

1. By the demi-great axis, on which depends the medium motion of the planet.
2. By the epoch of the medium longitude.
3. By the eccentricity of the orbit.
4. By the longitude of the perihelion.
5. By the inclination of the orbit.

And, 6. By the longitude of its parts.

"M. Lagrange," adds he "has long since given to the differential expression of the great axis the form of which I have just spoken; and he has concluded with great propriety from thence, the invariability of the proportional motions, when regard is only paid to the first power of the perturbatory masses. This, I myself was the first to recognise, by only rejecting one-fourth of the power of the eccentricities and inclinations; a calculation which proved sufficient for all the purposes of astronomy. Accordingly, in the second book of the "Mécanique Céleste," I have given the same form to the differential expressions of the eccentricity of the orbit, its inclination, and the longitude of its parts. It remained therefore only to give the same form to the differential expressions of the longitudes of the epoch and the perihelion, which I have done in this place."

"*Mémoires de Chimie, auten aut des Analyses de Mineraux, &c.*"—Memoirs of Chemistry, containing Analyses of Minerals, by MARTIN HENRY KLAPOUTH, Professor of Chemistry at the Academy for the Artillery in Prussia, an Associate of the National Institute of France, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. printed at Paris, and imported by M. de Boffe, Nassau-street.

The author tells us in his preface, which is here translated at full length, that he has long conceived the project of collecting all the different memoirs on chemistry hitherto written by him, but never found time for this until now.

"In presenting to the public," says he, "this first volume of the Analyses of Minerals, containing twenty-six dissertations, the greater part of which now appear for the first time, I have endeavoured to render my labours as complete as possible; but I have experienced how difficult, and even how impossible it was, to render analyses perfect. I have attempted, not only to analyze species,

but even genera; yet I soon perceived that this task was too great for a single individual, and was accordingly forced to abandon it.

"As I most ardently desire to behold the science taking a wider range, in consequence of regular and correct experiments, I am of course anxious that the wish of Bergmann may be accomplished: "Aliorum tentamina, præsertim cardinalia, candidate sunt revidenda." For as this chemical philosopher very properly observes: "plus vident oculi, quam oculus; ideoque, quæ nova exhibentur pluribus, testibus in diversis locis utiliter confirmari puto."

The author thinks that his analytical method in respect to genus merits attention, and even imitation, from the ablest chemists. Much is said to depend on the choice of proper vessels. Platina itself does not resist the continual action of pot-ash in fusion; he himself usually makes use of a silver vase for experiments, and he recommends a golden one!

"*Sammlung Astronomischer Abhandlungen, &c.*"—A Collection of Memoirs, Observations, and Astronomical Notices, by J. L. BODE, 4 vols. 8vo. with plates, Berlin, 1809.

This astronomer, who is well known throughout Germany, has in this work collected a great variety of memoirs on different branches of that science which he professes. Of these we shall here only select a few:

1. Tables of the Moon, according to the longitudinal equations of Burg, and also those of the latitudes and parallaxes of Laplace, by Oltmans.
2. Of the direction of the sun's movement, and the solar system, by Herschel.
3. Geographical position of Porto Rico, by Oltmans.
4. Geographical positions, and astronomical observations, made in Sweden during the years 1801-2-3 and 4.
5. Formulae of the precession, by Pfatts.
6. On the problem, to find the true position of a planet by means of the medium of its longitude, by Rohde.
7. Geographical position of the city of Pilsen, in Bohemia, by Davd.
8. On the influence of reciprocal attraction of three bodies on the movement of one of these bodies, by Hegner.
9. Trigometrical measurement of the duchy of Berg, by Benzenberg.
10. Geographical longitude of Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, by Oltmans.
11. Method

11. Method of calculating the eclipses of the sun, and the occultations of the stars, by Schmidt;

12. On the new observations and calculations of M. Piazzi;

13 and 14. The two supplements to the catalogue of the stars of M. Piazzi, by Oltmanns;

15. Of the latitude of Quito, by the same;

16. Astronomical observations made at Paris, by M. Bouvard;

17 and 18. Two memoirs composed at Paris, by M. Van Beek Calkoen, on the apparent medium distance of 38 pair of stars;

19. Geographical positions determined on the coast of Italy, &c. &c.

"*Bulletin des Neusten, &c.*" Bulletin of New Inventions, interesting to Arts, Manufactures, Trades, Rural and Domestic Economy, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. Berlin. We are here presented with a variety of discoveries, in consequence of the conversion of objects of natural history to the advancement of trade and manufactures. First, we are told in what manner the rose of Damascus may be employed advantageously, for the advancement of the arts; next we have a receipt for preparing Spanish rouge; then an account of a new green and a new blue. After this, we are presented with a dissertation on chilling of liquors by means of metal vessels; a substitute for lime juice follows; remarks on the vegetable compass; on the specific gravity of concrete mercury; on convex glasses; on the manufacture of paper; on the means of discovering the falsification of white paint; a new drawing-ink; new colours for cotton stuffs; the bark of the hieracium pilosella, proposed as a substitute for the quinquina, or jesuit's bark; an essay on perfecting electrical conductors; a new orange-coloured gunpowder for artillery; an account of certain Germans who eat argillaceous earth.

"*Geschichte der Buuerschen, &c.*" History of the Nineteenth Century, particularly destined for a Narration of the Austrian Annals, 4 vols. with portraits. Vienna, 1808. M. Schwaldopler, the author of these volumes, confines himself almost entirely to an enumeration of those events, in which the house of Austria has been chiefly interested. All the portraits too, with the exception of that of Mr. Pitt, and Bonaparte, are confined to the court of Vienna, the

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likenesses being those of the archdukes Charles and John, Maria Theresa, the emperor Francis I., field-marshall Kray, &c. Among those of inferior consideration, we find the baron Van Swieten, and Fuger the painter.

"*Rückerinnerungen an Grosse Männer, &c.*" Reminiscences of Great Men, 1 vol. 8vo. Amsterdam, 1809. M. de Massenbach, the author of this work, has here given the public:

1. An eulogium on prince Henry of Prussia;

2. A parallel between prince Henry and Frederic II.;

3. A memoir relative to the administration of the latter;

4. A dissertation on the situation of Prussia and of Europe, after the demise of Frederic the Great;

And 5. The reasons for the author's entering into the service of the court of Berlin.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"*Traité Élémentaire de Physique.*" An Elementary Treatise on Natural Philosophy, by the Abbé Haüy, honorary canon of the metropolitan church of Paris, member of the legion of honour, &c. second edition, revised, and considerably augmented by the author, 2 vols. 8vo. printed at Paris, 1809.

The different points of view under which natural bodies and the *phenomena* presented by them, may happen to be considered, have given birth to a variety of studies and pursuits. These have been multiplied, we are told, in proportion as the progress of knowledge contributes to add new branches to the sciences already formed. The sum total of our acquisitions, resulting from these, has accordingly furnished the three grand divisions, to which have been given the names of natural philosophy, chemistry, and natural history.

To a knowledge of the properties of bodies, their changes, and the laws by which they are regulated, the Abbé affixes the appellation of *Physique*, or natural philosophy. But when the phenomena depend on the action exercised by the *molecule* of bodies on each other, as well as on their separation and union, this study properly appertains to chemistry. On the other hand, when the attention is turned towards particular beings, some of which enjoy life, and spontaneous motion, while others possess only a structure without organization, this

embraces

embraces the whole province of natural history, which alone comprehends three distinguished sciences, under the names of Zoology, Botany, and Mineralogy.

"But, in reality," adds he, "all the sciences dependent on or connected with nature, compose only one and the same science, which we have merely subdivided in such a manner, that different persons may attach themselves to different branches of it, and thus apply themselves specifically to those in which they may happen to take most delight. The experiments made in our modern cabinets and laboratories, tend only to make the works of nature familiar to us, and are but so many imitators of her phenomena. The pneumatic machine instructs us concerning the properties of the fluid which we breathe; while the electrical machine serves to assist us in determining the laws which govern the accumulated fluid often contained in a stormy cloud. The coloured image of the sun, presented by the light which passes through a prism, affords us an idea of the decomposition of this fluid, which, at some particular periods, displays the magnificent spectacle of the rainbow. All these different instruments, however diversified, are but so many interpreters of the visible language in which nature unceasingly speaks to us."

Vol. I. contains :

1. A Dissertation on the general properties of Bodies;
2. On Attraction;
3. On Caloric;
4. On Water;
5. On Air;
- And 6. On Electricity.

We perceive but little that is new: the abbé, however, does not confine his compilation to the works of his own countrymen, but borrows freely from foreigners. He expects great future advantages from the discovery of the balloon. On this occasion it is remarked, that Gay Lussac, in the course of his last voyage, attained a greater degree of elevation than any of his predecessors, having actually ascended 6977 metres, or 3579 toises above Paris, and 7016 metres, or 3600 toises above the level of the sea. At 6636 metres he opened a glass globe, and having emptied it, he filled it with air, and shut it close up again. On his return to the capital, an analysis took place, and on comparing it with the air at the entrance to the Polytechnical school, he found both to be

composed alike, each containing 0.2149 of oxygen*.

In his description of *paratonnerres*, or conductors, M. Haüy fails, as he might have given a far better account of this invention.

"*Naturwunder des österreichischen, &c.*" The Wonders of Nature in the Austrian States: by Doctor Francis Sartori, 4 vols. 8vo. Vienna. The same author is about to give a continuation of the present work, by means of a supplement, containing observations on the country and the people, throughout the Austrian monarchy. In the mean time, he presents us with a statement of whatever is wonderful, and accordingly we here have,

1. A description of the mountain Octscher, in Lower Austria.
2. A description of the Lake of Traun, or der Gemund.
3. An account of a Glaciers on Mount Brandstein.
4. A description of the Carinthian Alps.
5. An account of a singular animal in Carniola, called *Proteus Anguineus*.
6. On Mount Biinneberg, and the wine of Oedenburg.
7. The Sulphur cavern in Mount Bondaesch, in Transylvania.
8. The Wild Goats of the country of Salzburg.
9. The Lake Barthelemy, in the country of Berchtesgaden;
10. The Valley of Buchberg, in the Lower Austria;
11. The Hole of Hell, on the En, in Austria;
12. The Mountain of Herisson, in Styria;
13. The Saline of Sovar in Hungary;
14. The Royal Mountain in Hungary;
15. The Sources of the Lebelang in Transylvania;
16. The tame bears in Poland;
17. The River of St. John, in Styria;
18. The Cataract of Mina, in Lower Austria;
19. The Mines of Quicksilver at Idria, in Cariola;
20. The Ice-cavern in the country of Berchtesgaden;
21. The industry and sociability of the mountain-rats of Styria and Carinthia, of Salzburg, and in the Carpathian Mountains.

"*Almanach für Scheidekünstler, &c.*"

* *Journal de Physique, Frimaire, An XIII. p. 454, et suiv.*

Almanack for Chymists and Apothecaries.

This, among other matters, contains an essay calculated to determine the connexion between the acetic acid and minium; another on the solubility of minium in the acetic acid; several remarks on the discoloration and whitening of yellow wax, as also on the preparation of distilled oils, &c. &c. To the memoir is joined, An Account of the Discoveries in Chemistry and Pharmacy, from 1807 to 1808, to which is added, an analysis of the principal new works.

“Die Elemente der Luftschwimmkunst, &c.” Elements of Aerostatics, by A. G. Zachariae, 280 pages 8vo. with a plate, Wirtemberg, 1807-8.

The author commences his undertaking by laying down certain hydrostatical principles, as necessary preliminaries. He afterwards treats of the natation of fishes, and the mechanism by which this object is attained. The flight of birds furnishes him with a new object of comparison, whence he proceeds to the art of elevating a man above the earth. It is his opinion, that the round form of the balloon will always oppose itself to the possibility of directing the machine, and that the elliptical shape is not much better. To remedy this inconvenience, he proposes to adopt the form of a fish; and this species of balloon being filled with gas, will, he thinks, be much more manageable.

“Tables Barometriques, pour faciliter le calcul des nivellemens, et des mesures des hauteurs, par le Baromètre, &c.” Barometrical tables to facilitate the Calculation of Levels, and also the measurement of Heights, by the Barometer; by Bernard de Lindenau.

This work, which consists of fifteen tables, is preceded by an explanatory preface and introduction. The tables, themselves present the following objects:

1. Logarithms of heights, corrected so as to find the true elevation of mountains;
2. Proportional parts, to prevent interpolations;
- 3 and 4. Corrections, so as to estimate the difference of temperature at two separate stations;
5. Corrections for the latitude;
6. Corrections for the diminution of weight in respect to the vertical height;
7. Correction of heights, so as to

make an allowance for the effects of the capillary tubes;

8. Comparative temperature between the sea-shore and the top of a mountain;

9. Estimate of horizontal distances;

10. Table for reducing the results to the formulae of Laplace, Ramond Trembley, de Lüe, Roy, and Shuckburgh;

11. Conversion of English into French measures;

13. Comparison between the thermometer of Fahrenheit and that of Reaumur; and,

14. Comparison between the thermometer of Wodegrus and that of Reaumur.

“Les Amours Epiques;” Epic Loves, a poem, in six cantos, containing a translation of episodes, composed by the best epic poets: by Perseval Grand-maison, Paris, 1 vol. 12mo. with a plate.

The editor tells us, that the present work is composed “of a union of episodes, by the most famous poets, which have been connected by him in such a manner as to constitute a regular work.”

The poem opens with a description of Elysium:

“Il est dans les enfers des champs délicieux,

Ou l’ame des mortels favorisés des cieux
S’envole, & va goûter la paix inaltérable!
Que n’a point cette vie, hélas! si peu durable!

L’Elysée est le nom de ce charmant séjour,
Là s’offrent éclairés d’un tendre demi-jour, &c.”

While all are enjoying themselves in different manners, in these happy abodes, six poets recite their productions by turns; these are Homer, Tasso, Ariosto, Milton, Virgil, and Camoens. The first of these commences with the death of Patroclus, the victory of Hector, and the rage of Achilles; the next makes his appearance in Canto II.

“Il chantoit de Renaud les amoureux transports.

“Bouillon, dit il, en vain vouloit prendre Solyme,

“Ayant perdu l’appui de ce heros sublime
“Qui d’Armide amoureux, au bont de l’univers;

“Dans une île enchantée idolâtroit ses fers.”

Ariosto begins as follows:

“Charles par sa valeur,
“De Leutce ayant su delivrer les murailles

“Vouloit déjà tenter le destin des batailles,

“Et detruire Agramant, ce monarque indomté,

“Qui

“ Qui naguere assiégoit sa superbe cité;
 “ Rempli d'une fureur à le prendre animée,
 “ Charles dans son camp même assiégeoit
 son armée:
 “ Lorsque deux Sarrazins nés de tristes
 parents,
 “ Qui dans Ptolémais tenoient les derniers
 rangs,
 “ Par leur tendre amitié, &c.”

Perhaps the English reader may be desirous to know in what manner our great national épic poet is taught to speak in a foreign idiom? Here follows a short specimen:

“ Alors Milton, prenant sa lyre entre ses mains,
 “ Se prépare à chanter le premier des humains:
 “ La foule avidement et l'entoure & le presse;
 “ Il exhale en ces mots sa poétique ivresse.
 “ Le mont d'Eden s'élève en des champs fortunés,
 “ Ses pieds sont de buissons partout environnés,
 “ Et, partout l'entourant, d'inaccessibles roches
 “ De ses flancs escarpés défendent les approches:
 “ Sur ses flancs s'elevaient de longs & noirs sapins,
 “ De cedres, des palmiers, de vénérables pins,
 “ Qui montant par degrés formoient de verds étages,
 “ Levoient pompeusement ombrages, sur ombrages, &c.

“ *Lettres écrites de l'Italie, pendant les années 1801 et 1805.*” Letters from Italy, written between the years 1801 and 1805. By P. F. Rehfues, Zurich, 1809. The author is already known in the literary world, by his work, “ *Sur l'état actuel de la Sicile,*” published in 1807. Several of the letters in the present volume, have already appeared in the two German Journals edited by M. Rehfues, under the separate titles of “ *De l'Italie, & Mélanges Italiens.*” They now re-appear, with many emendations, and are at the same time considerably enlarged.

We are here presented with accurate descriptions of the cities of Leghorn, Florence, and Genoa. The first letter contains a general description of the Italian ladies; the second gives an account of the carnival at Leghorn; and in the third, the author has treated “ *Sur l'art d'improviser,*” which he considers as a simple mechanical habit, that presupposes no talent whatsoever for poetry. The next letter is dedicated to a description of the ancient pictures of Campo Santo, and the Baths of Pisa;

next follows an account of the quarries of marble at Massa, where there is at this very time an academy of sculpture.

From Lerici, on the gulph of Spezzia, the author repaired to Genoa; and his remarks on the characters of the Genoese, are extremely interesting. A journey to Rome furnishes him with an opportunity of detailing a variety of remarks relative to the spirit which prevailed in the various religious orders, as well as of the rivalship which subsisted among them. The want of cultivation in the *Campagna di Roma,* is attributed partly to the siege of that city in 1527, and partly to the residence of the Popes at Avignon.

Our traveller next visits Florence, which he considers as a city better calculated for social intercourse than Rome, while the latter is a superior abode for such as are attached to the study of the fine arts. The gallery of the pictures appertaining to the marchioness of Gerini, is described with great minuteness, as is also that of Cambrucchini at Leghorn. The appendix contains dissertations on the social state in Italy, and on the Jews of Leghorn.

“ *Tableau de Naples, & des ses Environs, &c.*” A Description of Naples and its Environs, by P. J. Rehfues, 3 vols. 8vo. 1808. This work has been already alluded to in the preceding article. The author, after a variety of particulars relative to the situation, climate, and history of Naples, estimates the population of that city, in 1805, at 413,421 inhabitants, without reckoning foreigners. Those resident in the country are calculated at 123,730, among whom are included 2000 secular ecclesiastics, more than 3000 monks, and upwards of 4500 nuns.

After this the author gives an account of the various public places; the means of provisioning the city; the feast of St. Januarius, and the Neapolitan women. These appear to him to be less comely than the men: they are represented as little, and brown-complexioned, but very lively and very spirited. The Neapolitans in general are described as superstitious, high-polished, much addicted to litigation, and often cruel and deceitful. They pretend that their dialect is far superior to the Tuscan, and possess a natural talent for the language of gesticulation. In their songs they celebrate their horses, their limpid fountains, and their mistresses. The article respecting public

public shows is treated of at great length.

In the second volume, we have an account of the bank, denominated the *Monte de Piete*; observations on public instruction; the manner in which the convents were governed, the ceremonies of marriage, burials, the carnivals, the lazzaroni, &c. The third commences with a portrait of father Rocco, a dominican friar, who died a little before the revolution. His eloquence had an astonishing effect on the lazzarones, and he sometimes obliged even the king himself to listen to the voice of truth. The mention of the church of the Annunciation, serves to introduce a few remarks relative to two celebrated queens, Joan I. and II. We have also an account of the grotto of Pausilippo, the tomb of Virgil, the *Campo Santo*, &c.

"*Nouveau Dictionnaire Portatif de Bibliographique, &c.*" A new and portable Biographical Dictionary, containing more than 23,000 articles of rare, curious, and esteemed Books, with remarks to distinguish the different Editions, so as to be able to know the original from the spurious ones. Second edition, revised and augmented, by Fr. Ign. Fournier, 1 vol. 8vo. Paris.

The first edition of this work, we are told, experienced an unexampled degree of success, having been entirely sold off within the space of three years. This is partly owing to the increase of *amateurs*, or book-fanciers, and partly to the prodigious number of booksellers with which Paris at this moment abounds, for the *bibliomania* was never so prevalent there as now. Never did France, it is said, possess so few Greek and Latin scholars, and yet, strange to be told! never were the editions printed by the Elzivirs and the Alduses sought after with such delight. Cailleau in 1791, published a dictionary of the same kind as the present in 3 vols. with the prices annexed, at which period the sums given for similar articles were far inferior to what is now readily obtained.

This work is preceded by a dissertation written by M. Jardé, who appears to be an antiquary as well as a bookseller, for he alludes to patriarchal traditions, and antediluvian memoirs which Noah carried with him into the ark, and which served Moses as materials for the composition of his *Genesis!* facts curious and singular indeed of themselves, and which only want something in the shape of proof. He also hazards a few question-

able assertions at a latter period, having attributed the preservation of Greek books to the schism which divided the Greek and Latin churches. It is his opinion, that the latter language would have absorbed the former, if the Roman church had triumphed; and he boldly maintains, that if the protestant religion had extended itself throughout all Europe, the Latin language would have been entirely forgotten, as then the vulgar tongue only would have been used in divine worship.

While treating of a more recent period, Mr. Jardé details a variety of interesting facts. He observes, that at the disastrous epoch of the revolution, when the people of France were obliged to sell their moveables in order to procure bread, the English, Germans, and Russians obtained an immense number of valuable books and manuscripts. Even at the present moment, according to him, the capital does not contain twelve libraries worthy of being compared with the ancient ones of the second order; while all the booksellers of Paris would not be able to furnish three fit to be compared with that of the Duke de Vallière.

He complains greatly of certain speculators, the intervention of whom between the real purchasers and the booksellers, occasions a great loss to the latter. These persons calculating on the prevailing *mania*, make extraordinary charges for large margins, yellow or flesh-coloured paper, useless dates, and even faults in printing. On the other hand, a number of *amateurs* do not purchase a book because it is good, but because it is scarce; and both these classes have put it entirely out of the power of many men of letters to obtain the works of which they stand really in need.

"We pray heartily," says a French critic, "that it may one day be with books as with other commodities, which are purchased for the sake of utility only. There would then undoubtedly be fewer booksellers, but they would be both richer and more respectable; there would also be fewer libraries, but there would be no useless ones, and thousands of volumes heaped up without discernment and without choice, by the rich and ignorant, would no longer be exposed to be devoured by worms."

"*Description Statistique des Frontieres Militaires de l'Autriche, &c.*" A Statistical Description of the military frontiers of Austria, by J. A. Demian, an officer in the Austrian army, 1807. This is a confirmation

firmation of the general statistical account of the Austrian monarchy, comprehended in four volumes; and such changes have since taken place, that this work may be already considered in some measure obsolete. The military frontier commences, or rather *did lately commence*, at the Adriatic sea, and extended along the boundary of Croatia, Sclavonia, the Bannat, and Transylvania, to the county of Maramorosch, in Hungary. This line of 230 miles was defended by a *cordon* of 4380 men, formed out of the inhabitants of the country, who are at once soldiers and cultivators.

"Pantheon der Russischen Literatur, &c." Pantheon of Russian Literature, by Jean de la Croix, 1 vol. 8vo. Riga, 1806—1809. This is the first volume of a work in which the author undertakes to refute the opinion commonly spread abroad, that Russia is entirely destitute of literature. To controvert this, he has collected and inserted a variety of memoirs that have appeared in the various public journals of that immense empire.

The first of these is entitled, "Observations on the Sciences, the Arts, and the Progress of Knowledge, originally inserted in the Journal of the *Agliaia*, published by Karamsin.

2. Letters extracted from Ismailoff's Journeys through Southern Russia.

3. The Sierra Morena, a novel, extracted from the *Agliaia*.

4. The Chimney, a tale, written by a Russian lady.

5. The Isle of Bornholm, a story, by Karamsin.

6. Observations on Solitude, by the same.

7. The Mode of living at Athens, by the same.

8. My Confession, by the same.

"Von Herders Sämtliche Werke Zur Philosophie, &c." The complete Works of the late M. Herder, philosophical and historical, 8 vols. large 8vo. Tübingen, 1808. This editor has been at great pains to complete the collection of M. de Herder's works.

Vol. 1, The Ancient World, with 5 plates, and 3 vignettes.

Vol. 2, A Preface to the Philosophy of History, so far as it respects the human race.

Vols. 3, 4, 5, and 6, contain ideas relating to the history of mankind.

Vol. 8, of God and the Soul. The first portion of this last volume is devoted to the consideration of what is termed the

perception, and the sentiment of the mind; the second, entitled "God," contains dissertations relative to the system of Spinoza, with a hymn to Nature; the third is occupied with reflections on love and egotism; and there is also, a supplement to the letter of Hemsterhus on Desire; the fourth is entitled "The Voice of Prometheus chained to Mount Caucasus. To complete this, which is the best edition, M. de Müller intends to add several more volumes.

"Dresden's Verstorbene und Lebende, &c." Notices relative to the Authors and Artists of Dresden, both dead and living, classed methodically, with a triple table of contents, 8vo. Dresden, 1808. The authors here mentioned are classed in the following order:

1. Theologians.
2. Pedagogues.
3. Philosophers.
4. Juris-consults.
5. Physicians.
6. Naturalists.
7. Economists.
8. Financiers.
9. Historians.
10. Geographers.
11. Men of Letters.
12. Mathematicians.
13. Tacticians.
14. Philologists.
15. Those attached to the Belles Lettres.
16. Grammarians.
17. Translators.
18. Journalists.
19. Composers.
20. Artists.

The last of these classes is subdivided into painters, engravers, sculptors, architects, mechanicians, and makers of instruments. The three tables contain the names of the authors of all these classes; those of the living authors, with the epochs of their birth, as well as those of the artists.

"Mes Ecarts, &c." My Wanderings, or the Fool who sells Wisdom, a manuscript published by M. Coffin-Rony, formerly an Advocate of the Parliament of Paris, &c. 3 vols. 12mo.

Dormenil, who is the chief personage in this romance, is the son of a respectable magistrate. His mother dies in consequence of his birth, and his father determines never to marry again, in order that he might consecrate all his affections, and dedicate all his time, to rear and educate his only son. At

At the age of seventeen, however, we find him in possession of a handsome person, little learning, and but few accomplishments, "with an ardent mind, and a head full of vivacity."

On leaving college, he decides in favour of the profession of arms, and is taught to ride and to fence. He begins with one youthful indiscretion, which leads to many more, after which he joins his regiment, gives an account of his amours, and his follies, and gets into a thousand scrapes. A passion for play produces losses, and these induce him to borrow. He then fights a duel, flies to Savoy, and engages in new intrigues; but is at times afflicted at the idea of his own conduct, and attributes his remorse to the principles of a good education, and the early lessons of morality instilled into his mind.

At length, after a variety of adventures, Dermenil returns to France, enjoys an unexpected interview with the lady to whom he had first paid his addresses, and solicits the hand of the fair Julia in marriage.

"My happiness," says he, "surpasses the limits prescribed to human felicity, and if the uncertainty of its duration, now and then obscures it with a cloud, this is dissipated by a single smile from my wife, whose virtues constitute the happiness and consolation of my father. I entertain no other fear, than what arises from the possibility of being snatched from so much bliss, and even then, religion withdrawing the veil that separates this world from the next, points out an eternal abode without fears for the future, or recollection of the past."

"*Histoires Nouvelles et Contes Moraux, &c.*" New Stories and Moral Tales, containing Bettina; Clara, or a Convenient Marriage; Lucy, or the Error of a Moment producing the Virtues of a whole Life; Gustavus, or the Anniversary of a Birth-day; Poor Sarah, &c.; by M. L. de Sevelinges, 12mo. 1810.

These little tales appeared in succession in the *Mercure de France*, during the year 1809, and were read with great satisfaction; in consequence of which, they now make their appearance in the form of a little volume. Some of these are formed on the English model, and in "Lucy," we are introduced to a "Lady Anne Rosehill," "Colonel Westbury," and a "Miss Dolmers," the heroine, who is the daughter of a clergyman, &c. In strict conformity to our daily practice,

the parties met for the first time at tea, and we believe no novelist on the Continent would omit such a characteristic feature of our country.

The usual assiduities of a young man, rich, handsome, and debauched, are recurred to, against a young creature, ignorant of the world, and of course credulous and cautious. The colonel soon forgets all his vows and deserts the woman he has seduced. On his death-bed, however, he beholds her with emotions of a very different kind, marries the mother, recognizes her daughter, and dies happily!

In another moral tale, we are made acquainted with a nobleman, who thinks he is a misanthrope, and yet proves the most amiable, humane, and honourable of mankind; he declares against marriage, and hates widows, and yet he concludes by being united with a widow! Several of the stories are written in such a manner, as to produce considerable effect.

"*Espagne, par M. A. de Laborde, &c.*" An Account of Spain, by M. Alexander de Laborde.

M. de Laborde, the celebrated banker in Paris, had conceived the idea of composing a "Voyage Pittoresque de l'Espagne," with a variety of fine plates, and executed after the manner of the Count de Choiseul's work of the same kind. That revolution, however, which has elevated Joseph Bonaparte to the throne of Spain, prevented the completion of his labours, and he has now contented himself with a publication inferior to the former in every point of view.

A large portion of the first volume, is chiefly occupied with short directions for the use of a traveller; together with an account of the climate, and geography of the respective provinces. An itinerary fills more than two other volumes, and this is followed by a dissertation on the population, manufactures, government, &c.

It is the opinion of this author, that Spain was never in a more prosperous state than at the period anterior to the present unhappy contest. In confirmation of this, he asserts that it was not only more populous, but better cultivated than ever; facts which have been contradicted by a variety of native historians, and are indeed, in direct opposition to popular and received opinions. He also thinks, that the discovery of America, instead of being prejudicial, as hitherto supposed, to the mother

mother country, has, on the contrary, proved highly advantageous. He contends that Spain was never depopulated by emigration to her colonies, and that, instead of being impoverished by them, she has derived very extraordinary advantages within the last hundred years. He describes the inhabitants as uniting great vivacity of character, with astonishing slowness in point of action. They awaken, we are told, from their constitutional apathy, the moment that their pride is irritated, their anger provoked, or their generosity stimulated.

We are astonished at the mild manner in which the author treats of the Inquisition; and his justification of the punishment of the poor Moors and Jews, by committing them to the flames, is calculated to excite indignation in every generous bosom.

"Recueil de Lettres et Dissertations sur l'Agriculture, &c." A Collection of Letters, and Dissertations, relative to Agriculture, the advantages derived from the folding of sheep, the best means of increasing the production of corn, and fruits of every kind. Here also are to be found, remedies for the most dangerous disorders, together with a variety of other interesting matters; to which are added a few specimens of poetry; by D. L. J. R. De Scevole, a learned proprietor, and cultivator at Argenton, in the department of Indre. 2 vols. 12mo.*

Pater ipse colendi
Haud facilem esse viam voluit, primusque
per artem
Movit agros, curis acuens, mortalia corda.

Virg. Georg. lib. ii.

The title-page of this work is given at full length, and we shall notice several of the subjects, by way of exhibiting the humble efforts of a French practical agriculturist. In one chapter we have a dissertation on the means of raising silk-worms in the open air, and on the mulberry tree. We are told, however, after the experiment had been fairly tried, that the silk-breeding insects were all devoured by birds, lizards, and large "flies," the last of which is a tribe of insects incapable of similar depredations, at least in England. We are next presented with a remedy for the cure of the effects produced by the bite of vipers; he prescribes the expressed juice of the craisette (*cruciata hirsuta*), mingled with an equal quantity

* Imported by Mr. De Bosse, Nassau-street, Soho-square.

of wine, which is to be swallowed by the patient, while the refuse of the plant is applied as a cataplasm to the wound.

A whole letter is occupied with the description of a *ley*, for seed-oats, and a recommendation to be careful of diminishing the quantity usually sown one half. Another is occupied with an eulogy on the *potatoe*, which appears still to be a rarity in some parts of France. The author boasts of being able to dress it in a hundred different modes, and even prefers this root to butcher's meat, fowls, and game! The potatoes are sometimes roasted whole in the ashes; sometimes peeled and served with a rich gravy; at other times stewed, introduced into ragouts, *baulettes*, *beignets*, and what is still more extraordinary, into salads! His tarts, which are more healthy, light, and pleasant, than those made of almonds, are always formed out of this vegetable, and in time of scarcity, by the help of rye or barley-meal, it is converted into bread.

Perhaps the proposition to obtain oil from the acorn, may contain a good hint; it is recommended for the use of painters, the preparation of varnish, &c. We are next presented with a letter on the method of feeding bees during the winter; and a composition of water and wine, mixed in equal parts with honey, is recommended.

The following passage, although like the greater part of the work, it has nothing to do with agriculture, yet contains much good sense. By way of introduction to a very simple receipt, for preventing the bad effects of verdigrease, litharge, and white lead, the author observes: "That our ancestors were generally stronger, more vigorous, and more healthy, than ourselves, and exhibited fewer pale faces and consumptive lungs, than we do." "The reason is," adds he, "because they did not inhabit little, narrow, close chambers, finely painted, and varnished; they did not sleep in dark alcoves, with double curtains to their beds, and double glasses to their windows. The whole of a family assembled in one large apartment, where they warmed themselves, not by means of the suffocating heat of a stove, but at a chimney, large in proportion to the room in which they assembled. The air, which is the principle of life, circulated freely around our fathers and mothers seated in this manner. If they went out, they either rode or walked; they were never enclosed like so many

eastern deities, in little gilded boxes, closely shut, and rolling along on wheels. In fine, being destined by nature to breathe a pure and healthy air, they did so, and were men." The mode pointed out for preventing newly-painted rooms from being deleterious, is to keep a fire constantly lighted in them, and for a closet that is not provided with a chimney, it is recommended to burn a fire in an adjoining apartment. This is a very simple, and if efficacious, a very important communication; but the succeeding letter, which denounces the practice of *blueing* linen, as troublesome, may be thought too trifling.

The next *agricultural* epistle consists of an eulogium on the purity of the air of Paris, notwithstanding the immense number of inhabitants, the numerous burial-places, and the infected state of the atmosphere. This is generally attributed to the waters of the Seine, into which every species of filth is emptied; but this river on the other hand traversing the whole of the immense capital, according to some, compensates for every thing, and purifies the atmospheric air, so as to render a crowded city salubrious. M. de Scevole, however, supposes, that the agitation occasioned by carriages, passengers, and the ringing of bells, operates as so many secondary causes.

We now come to a dissertation on the existence of the soul, occasioned by the four following lines, composed by Frederiek the Great:

"Dès que nous finissons, notre ame est eclipsée,
"Elle est en tout semblable à la flamme élanécé
"Qui part d'un bois ardent dont elle se nourrit,
"Et dès qu'elle tombe en cendre elle baise et perir."

Our author meets this passage with the following couplet:

"Ignis ubique latet; naturam amplificatum nem;
"Cuncta parit renovat, dividit, unit, alit."

"*Moyens de conserver la santé des Habitans des Campagnes, &c.*" On the Means of preserving the Health of the Inhabitants of the Country, both in their Cottages and Fields, by Madame Gaçon-Dufour, author of many works on rural economy, and Member of several Agricultural Societies.

This lady, who exhibits much good sense, and appears to have had no common share of experience, begins by stating the causes that render the habitating

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tions of the French peasantry unhealthy. We find that they are obliged from necessity to reside under the same roof as their cattle, with only a thin separation between, and after they (themselves and their cows) have repaired to the fields, their huts are generally shut up, while their windows are constantly fastened. In addition to this, they lie on *uncured* feather-beds, and use straw mattrasses (*paillasse*), which are emptied but once in four years. It is difficult, we are told, to remove the prejudices of the cottager by argument; and it becomes necessary to recur to indirect means. The author once demonstrated to a person of this description, the folly of sleeping in an alcove or niche, with the curtains closely drawn, by merely placing a bird above his head, and exhibiting the little animal nearly expiring in the morning.

Madame G. next treats of air in general; the necessity of repose after labour; and the propriety of eating proper aliments. She distinguishes potatoes among "the solid and substantial foods;" is a great advocate for rye bread, and recommends four meals a day! We are next presented with a chapter on the advantages and disadvantages of labour; the danger of suppressing perspiration by a sudden chill, &c. Most diseases, we are told, may be cured by a due proportion of exercise; and in some of the southern provinces of France, the magistrates offer prizes annually to promote running, jumping, &c. Mothers are warned against the use of bandages for their children; the danger of sleeping in the fields is pointed out; the use of lead and copper vessels is prohibited, as are also pewter mugs for cider and wine. Great pains are taken to demonstrate that new houses are unhealthy: the Romans, we are told, prohibited any from being inhabited until after the expiration of three years.

In order to render the thatch of cottages more durable, it is recommended to cover them with a moss called la fontaine in combustible (*fontinalis anti-pyreticae*), a plant that grows in great plenty in pools of water, &c. Another, the *tortula barbularialis*, Hdw. 5, and the *bryum rurale*, Dillers, is produced on trees. These, we are told, will not only enable them to last half a century, but prevent them at the same time from being destroyed by fire. The receipt is taken from Sonnini, who observes, that the Laplanders always guard their wooden chimneys

chimnies with the *fontinale incombus-tible*.

“Frederick der Zweite, &c. Frederick II. Roi de Prusse.” Frederick II. King of Prussia, or Notices respecting his Private Life, by Schœning. 63 pages, 8vo. Berlin, 1808.

These observations are the production of the late M. Schœning, formerly first valet de chambre to the celebrated king, mentioned in the title-page. They are intended to rectify several erroneous assertions respecting his majesty, which have appeared in different biographical works. The author begins by giving a description of the person of Frederic; he then mentions the manner in which he spent his time, which was strictly regulated for every day in the year. The whole is terminated by a few characteristic anecdotes, many of which are deserving of record.

Frederic II. we are told was not a great eater, a fact in direct opposition to the assertions of all who knew him. It is allowed, however, that he was unfortunate in the choice of his meats, which frequently subjected him to cholics and indigestion. He did not love Burgundy, and was still less fond of old hock, to which he attributed the gout that he inherited from his father. The anecdotes relative to his familiarity with his coachman, are absolutely controverted. This fellow was insolent to all the world, and the king dismissed him from his service ten or a dozen years before his death. It was only at the reiterated request of the count de Schwerin, his master of the horse, that his majesty at length consented to allow him a very moderate pension.

It has been asserted, that the king was accustomed to turn his coats. This is denied, but it is at the same time allowed, that it was usual with him to have them mended. He was fond of snuff boxes, and it has been said, that he expended to the amount of four or five millions of crowns on them. This is deemed a gross exaggeration, but enough is here conceded to prove, that he squandered immense sums on this species of toys. The most common of these is here valued at 2000 crowns, and the most valuable at 10,000: after his death, 180 were found in his possession, and if each of these were to be estimated even at 10,000 crowns, the whole would only amount to 1,300,000. This, however, serves to prove nearly all that has been asserted on this subject.

The author has added some remarks on the king's mode of thinking on religion, a repetition of which we have some reason to believe, would not be extremely edifying. He also quotes many instances of his contempt of German literature, and his predilection for nobility.

Charles James Fox, &c. *“Sir Charles James Fox, Secretary of State, &c. ou Mémoires, sur sa vie politique, littéraire et privée, traduits d'après la quatrième édition de l'original Anglais, 1 vol. 8vo. Leipsic, 1 rrd. 1808.”* The above title-page, in which the late Right Hon. Charles James Fox is knighted, has been copied literally.

“Description de la Ville de Dresden, &c.” A Description of the City of Dresden, with an account of its most beautiful edifices.

The text is in the German and French languages, and the plates of this elegant work, which are 18 in number, have been designed by M. M. Hainmer and Thormeyer, and engraved by Veith, Schuman, &c. The first is a general view of the city;

The 2d plate contains the Japonese palace;

The 3d, the Japonese garden;

The 4th, A view of the Abbey of Neustadt, and of the bridge across the Elbe;

The 5th, 6th, and 7th, are different views of the same bridge;

The 8th is a plate of the Catholic church, taken from the palace of Bruhl.

The 9th, a view of Zwinger, taken from the Abbey of Ostra;

The 10th, a view of the picture gallery;

The 11th, a view of the church of Our Lady;

The 12th, view of the Church of the Cross;

The 13th, a view of the gate of Pirna.

And from the 14th to 18th, we have views of the Palace of Pillniz; of the Fort of Kænigstein; of the valley of Plauen; of Tharand; and of Moritzbourg.

DRAMA.

“Hector, Tragédie en cinq actes, suivie de plusieurs fragmens imités de l'Iliade, &c.” Hector, a Tragedy in five acts, accompanied by several Fragments imitated from the Iliad, and one scene appertaining to Helen, suppressed by the author; by J. Ch. J. Luce de Lancival; represented for the first time, on the Théâtre Française, February 1, 1809.

M. Luce

M. Luce de Lancival has on this, as on former occasions, both studied and copied the ancients. He has borrowed their sentiments and their manners, and it may accordingly be said of him:

" C'est avoir profité que de savoir s'y plaire."

In the character of Hector we behold a paraphrase of the Iliad; and the same submission to his father, the same respect for the gods, as inculcated by Homer, is every where inculcated and enforced. He is depicted as generous, and disinterested; ever ready to confound himself with the crowd, and never separating from them, unless when he is about to immolate himself to the happiness of all. Here follows a specimen of the noble sentiments which are put into the mouth of a hero, whose constant cry is, " Ilion avant tout!"

" Quand il a consenti qu'on ouvrît la barrière,

" Un guerrier ne peut plus regarder en arrière ;

" Sans balancer, il vole au cri de la valeur,

" Et même avant les dieux il consulte l'honneur.

" Je n'affecterai point une vertu barbare :

" De tout ce que j'aimai, si la mort me sépare,

" Je sens tout mon malheur; fils, père, époux heureux,

" Mon cœur tient à la vie, hélas ! par trop de noeuds.

" Mais je dois jusqu'au bout remplir ma noble tâche ;

" Mais Hector ne peut vivre avec le nom de lâche ;

" Et quand c'est au plus brave à subir le trépas,

" Le trépas est un bien qu'Hector ne céde pas."

The moral of the whole tragedy is, " command your passions and obey the gods." M. Luce represents Priam as a ravisher, and Helena as the victim, rather than the accomplice, of his crime. It is thus she expresses herself on this occasion:

" Je hais Paris; par lui je suis infortunée ;

" A mille affronts par lui je me vois condamnée ;

" A Pergame, à la Grèce objet trop odieux,

" A peine devant toi j'ose lever les yeux.

" Je le hais des malheurs qu'il cause à ma patrie ;

" Je le hais des soupçons dont magloire est flétrie ;

" Et si je me rapelle un plus doux souvenir,

" Je le hais de m'avoir forcée à le haïr."

Paris himself, is represented as generous, noble, and brave, qualities which neither correspond with his received character, nor indeed with history. On the other hand, the plot is unperplexed with extraordinary and wonderful incidents, and the author makes it his boast, to endeavour to restore to the stage all the original simplicity of Racine.



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Adams, C.	495	Brandon & Cor-		Crankshaw, T.	ib.	Emmett, H. &	
Adams, E. G.	ib.	tisos	ib.	Critchley, E. R.	82	J.	593
Addis, C.	383	Brearley, W.	592	Critchley, J.	593	Evans, E.	ib.
Aldridge, J.	275	Brookes, J.	275	Croose, T.	176	Evered, A.	ib.
Aidridge, J.	592	Brookes, T.	592	Croudace, J.	275	Fallon, A.	383
Allen, J.	275	Brown, W.	82	Curtis, W.	82	Farrell, C.	593
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Alner, G. P.	82	Brown, T.	275	Dakey, C.	383	Felton, J.	383
Ambler, J.	175	Brown, R. W.	383	Daniels, J. & J.	275	Fenwick, G.	496
Anderson & Eades	383	Browne, J.	592	Darley, A.	82	Fewster, J.	ib.
Angell and		Bryan, T.	383	Davenport, J.	496	Fildes, B.	383
Frankum	495	Burford, J.	592	Davey, E. W.	275	Fischer, M.	82
Appleton and .		Burnett, W.	593	Davie, S.	496	Fleming, J.	275
Smedley	175	Burt, W.	383	Davies, T.	176	Fleming, H.	383
Arnold, W.	495	Burton, J.	275	Davies, T.	275	Flude, C.	376
Arrowsmith, G.	592	Bush, W.	495	Davies, T.	ib.	Forge, W.	ib.
Ashby, R.	82	Butcher, W.	275	Davies, J.	383	Forrest, J.	383
Ashley, J.	175	Buxton, T.	495	Davies, W.	ib.	Foster, R.	275
Asling & Cooper	82	Caithness, T.	593	Davies, D.	496	Foster, W.	496
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Audley, W.	175	Carroll, J.	175	Davis, J.	275	Franco, M.	275
Austin, J. B.	495	Carter, J.	593	Davis, J.	ib.	Frost, G.	593
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Babb, J.	175	Chambers, S.	175	Dawson, S.	82	Fuller, W.	82
Bacon, J.	ib.	Chance, E.	ib.	Dawson, T. P.	176	Fuller, R.	593
Baily, J.	82	Chandler, T.	82	Day, J.	496	Gaelach, G. H.	ib.
Bainbridge, T.	592	Chandler, T.	496	Dedwith, M.	275	Gafney, M.	275
Baker, J.	275	Chapman, R.	275	De Joachim, L. R.	383	Garnett & Speyer	ib.
Baker, J.	383	Chapman, W.	383	De La Hault, C.	ib.	Gaylard, J.	ib.
Baker, J.	592	Chiddell, J.	175	Dennison, W.	496	Gee, W.	496
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